

the Roosevelt review




October 27th, 2008 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States from 1901-1909. He was also an ardent conservationist, supporting the preservation of great tracts of the Western United States. He is seen here in 1903 during his inspection of Yellowstone National Park.

Promises Made and Fulfilled

At this historical occasion where the United States has elected its first biracial President, those of us whose profession is the study of American history must pause to acknowledge this remarkable event. It is the fulfillment of a promise made in 1776, that “all men are created equal,” a commitment carried forward by Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

The fascination that U.S. history has for many established European historians as well as up-and-coming young scholars is manifest at the Roosevelt Study Center each and every day. Manifest in the annual presentation of the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards to Dutch graduate students. Manifest in the active participation in the Research Grants Program, which allows numerous scholars to come to the RSC to do extensive research at the ever-expanding RSC library. This year a grant again allowed the library to acquire new documents, this time from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is also manifest in the seminars for Ph.D. students

held by professors Bruce Kuklick and Gerard N. Magliocca, both of whom were resident at the RSC as Fulbright-Dow Scholars. The RSC was also happy to welcome Robbert Dijkgraaf, Distinguished University Professor of Mathematical Physics at the University of Amsterdam, who since May 2008 is serving as President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. The biennial presentation of the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony was again held in Middelburg and editing on the monumental reference work, *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009*, continues with a publication date scheduled for September 2009.

Capping off a busy year at the RSC were the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of TR’s birth and the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one of Eleanor Roosevelt’s most important initiatives. With these events, the RSC has once again given voice to its own promise, “to promote the study of modern American history and European-American relations.” 

Newsletter of
the Roosevelt
Study Center

2008



A Word About the Roosevelt Study Center

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The RSC is housed in Middelburg's medieval Abbey 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 is 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.

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. 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, e-mail: rsc@zeeland.nl. 

President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences Visits the RSC



President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences Robbert Dijkgraaf (right) with Cornelis A. van Minnen, RSC Director in the RSC library.

Robbert Dijkgraaf, Distinguished University Professor of Mathematical Physics at the University of Amsterdam and serving since May 2008 as President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, visited the RSC on November 4, 2008 to meet with the RSC staff and to familiarize himself with the RSC research and conference programs as well as with its unique holdings. 

Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards


On March 14, 2008 the Roosevelt Study Center presented the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards (TRAHA) to three outstanding Masters theses written by Dutch students on subjects dealing with American history.

Started in 1987, the TRAHA prize is awarded annually to stimulate the study of United States history and culture in the Netherlands and to encourage students to use the archival resources on American history at the Roosevelt Study Center that are unique in Europe. The annual prize is named after Theodore Roosevelt, who was both the 26th president of the United States and a well-respected historian. In his 1912 presidential address for the American Historical Association, entitled "History and Literature," TR emphasized the importance of the epic literary tradition, the importance of writing with "imaginative power" in order to revive the past. The dissertations presented were judged on this, as well as on originality, structure, factual content, analysis, sources used, insights into the historical process, argumentation and interpretation. In addition, the value of the paper's conclusions and its contribution to the understanding of America were evaluated.

The seven nominees of this year were graduated from the universities of Groningen, Utrecht, Nijmegen, Amsterdam and Leiden. The jury panel consisted of Professor Adam Fairclough of Leiden University, Dr. Jaap Kooijmans from the University of Amsterdam and Mr. Jan-Pieter Daems, the 2007 winner of the TRAHA. The jurors noted that five of the seven topics discussed aspects of war and foreign policy from a European as well as an American perspective. All three prize winners received a diploma, a Theodore Roosevelt medal and a book of essays written by TR. In addition, the third prizewinner Marleen de Kleijn



The jury, nominees and RSC director.

(University of Amsterdam) received €125 for her thesis "Unity in Diversity: A Comparison between the Formation of a National Identity in the U.S. and a Transnational Identity in the European Union." The second prize of €250 was awarded to Mandy Tröger (University of Leiden) for her thesis "Dallas in East German Media Influence and the Perception of American Entertainment in the GDR: Between Agitation and Soft Power." The first prize was awarded to Sabrina Otterloo (University of Leiden) for her thesis "The War on Walter Lippmann: How President Lyndon B. Johnson Handled His First among Critics." According to the jury the quality of Ms. Otterloo's thesis exceeded the expectations of an MA thesis, combining extensive research with examination of original source material. She was awarded a trip to New York in September, and was hosted by both the Theodore Roosevelt Association (TRA) and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. 




First prize winner Sabrina Otterloo (left) with former TRA President Rob Dalziel and his wife Mary Lou at TR's birthplace in New York City.

President Theodore Roosevelt at 150 Visits the RSC

October 27, 2008 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States from 1901-1909. To celebrate this event, "TR" himself, played by Boston actor Ted Zalewski, visited the Roosevelt Study Center in the first week of October. On October 2, the "President" delivered an energetic presentation in Middelburg's old Town Hall on his life, times, and political legacy. This presentation included his role in U.S. politics, his contributions as a conservationist, and his being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for his mediation in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905. At the conclusion of his well-attended appearance in Middelburg, TR was available to answer questions on the development of the U.S.



President Theodore Roosevelt (left) is greeted by Middelburg's Mayor Koos Schouwenaar.

presidency in the century since he left the White House and what he might do now with U.S.-European relations were he to be re-elected. This inter-active event was a unique and dynamic moment in the history of Dutch-American relations. 

The Four Freedoms Awards



From left to right: Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands, Her Majesty the Queen and former President of Germany Richard von Weizsäcker with his Four Freedoms Award.


The Four Freedoms Awards are bestowed annually by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute on people who advance 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 24, 2008 the Nieuwe Kerk in Middelburg's Abbey served for the fourteenth

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, Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands were present.

The 2008 Winners

The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute presented the prestigious Four Freedoms Award this year to former President of Germany Richard von Weizsäcker for his contribution to the German process of coping with the legacy of World War II by redefining the end of the war as the "day of liberty." During his presidency the reunification of Germany took place and Von Weizsäcker helped to bring the Cold War to an end. He also developed a new perspective on the future role of the United Nations and made invaluable contributions to the development of the European Union. Richard von Weizsäcker received the Four Freedoms Medal from Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, co-chair of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

Other laureates of the Four Freedoms Awards were: Algerian U.N. diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi (Freedom of Speech and Expression Medal); British author Karen Armstrong (Freedom of Worship Medal); Norwegian politician and U.N. diplomat Jan Egeland (Freedom from Want Medal); Willemijn Verloop, founding director of War Child Netherlands (Freedom from Fear Medal). The speeches delivered at the ceremony have been made available by the Roosevelt Stichting on its website: www.fourfreedoms.nl. 

Lecture in the Transatlantic Relations Series




Professor Arjo Klamer discussing his views on Dutch and American higher education.

On March 19, 2008 Arjo Klamer, Professor in Cultural Economics at the Faculty of Arts and Cultural Studies at the Erasmus University Rotterdam delivered the sixth lecture in the RSC's Transatlantic Relations Lecture Series. Speaking on the "Paradox of American Learning," he presented two contradictions of "Americanization" within Dutch higher education. The first concerns the financial foundations of U.S. and Dutch academic institutes. In the Netherlands, government funding of universities and students creates an illusion of an independent, non-businesslike approach. U.S. universities are financed mostly by high tuitions and donations from alumni, companies and philanthropies, and so the system seems more capitalistic and more businesslike. Professor Klamer's experience contradicts this.

Secondly, the Dutch system offers a variety of bachelor degrees resulting in a confused

marketplace where faculties compete for students, often leading students to choose incorrectly. In the U.S. the two most common degrees are Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science. These "Liberal Arts" curricula, which originated in the Classical period, impart general intellectual knowledge, rather than narrower professional, vocational or technical education. U.S. colleges also encourage a higher level of teacher-student interaction.

Dutch and American intellectual life are also different. On American university campuses intellectual life thrives, but is barely visible elsewhere. In contrast, Dutch intellectuals are in all types of public and private professions. Professor Klamer does think, however, that the "university for life" idea is stronger in the U.S. than in the Netherlands, manifested by alumni investments in "their" universities, which create a strong sense of community. 

“A Spiritual Invasion?” American Influence on Dutch Christianity


Organized by George Harinck, director of the Historical Documentation Center for Dutch Protestants, and Hans Krabbendam, assistant director of the RSC, the April 25, 2008 conference on American religious influences in the Netherlands was attended by some fifty people. The conference focused on the export of religion from the United States to the Netherlands which began in the 19th century. Mr. Harinck commented on the shift from German to American theology in the Netherlands following the Second World War. Although the orthodox protestant Dutch churches resisted this influence as long as possible, in the 1990s most of them welcomed American evangelists such as Rick Warren.

Hans Krabbendam explored the American missionary activities in the Netherlands represented by youth groups such as Youth for Christ. After World War II, America’s enthusiasm as manifested in the Marshall Plan also encouraged American protestants to try to revive religion in Europe. In 1946 the Reverend Billy Graham, visiting the Netherlands for the first time during a European tour, appealed to individual spirituality and inter-church cooperation.

This practical type of Protestantism democratized the (young) believers, who, by attending newly-founded “Bible schools,” undermined the monopoly of the ministers.

Not all Protestants were happy with this American contribution. Peter Versteeg explained how and why ultra-Calvinistic Reformed Churches resisted these outside influences.

Philosopher of religion Taede Smedes showed how Intelligent Design as middling effort between Darwinism and creationism functions in both countries. Els Dijkerman explored the influence of Gospel music in the immigrant churches in the Netherlands. She pointed at a globalizing trend, which had stronger roots in the African diaspora than in direct imports from the U.S.

Historian Remco van Mulligen traced the influence of American television evangelism in the programming of the Dutch evangelical television network. Researchers Henri Knol and Hans Noot drew comparisons between Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons. The first group showed only marginal differences in the two countries, while the latter group had more awareness and leeway to adopt cultural differences. The conference proceedings will be published in 2009. 



Youth for Christ poster from 1947.


Divided Dreamworlds: The Cultural Cold War in East and West

The conference “Divided Dreamworlds,” held on September 26-27, 2008 at the University of Utrecht, was organized by Giles Scott-Smith of the Roosevelt Study Center, Peter Romijn of the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation, Amsterdam, and Joes Segal of the Research Institute for History and Culture, Utrecht.

The conference aimed to bring together a high-quality group of international scholars for a workshop-type event to examine the linkages between culture and Cold War politics in both Eastern and Western Europe. This is a topic of great interest in present-day Cold War studies, and the response to the call for papers indicated that a broad community of scholars is active in various research areas dealing with Cold War themes.

The conference was opened by Theo Mulder, director of research at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, as the Royal Academy, in honor of celebrating its 200th anniversary this year, was a co-sponsor of the conference. In his keynote address, the British

historian David Caute, whose work had inspired the conference theme, entitled “Issues of Cold War Culture,” made several astute observations on the study of the Cold War in contemporary academia.

A second keynote was given on the second day of the conference by Ruud van Dijk of the University of Amsterdam, concerning the place of culture in Cold War studies in general. In totality the conference program featured 22 speakers in a format of four panels covering “Cultural Interpretations between the Blocs,” “Images of the Self and the Other,” “Modernity East and West,” and “Flow and Flight across the Blocs.” A variety of topics were discussed from literature, music, and art to the media, film, transport, construction, and science. A final session addressed the issue of “where do we go from here?” The conference was a great success, mainly as a result of the high quality of all the contributions from start to finish and the excellent interaction between speakers and audience, allowing for a fruitful running dialogue over the two days. 



Keynote speaker David Caute whose work inspired the conference theme.

Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair




Professor Bruce Kuklick, Fulbright-Dow Scholar, spring 2008 (left) and Professor Gerard N. Magliocca, Fulbright-Dow Scholar, fall 2008 (right).



Under the auspices of the Fulbright Scholar Program and co-sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and Dow Benelux, the Roosevelt Study Center offers an American scholar a four-month residential fellowship for advanced research in the area of twentieth-century American history or American studies (including political science, sociology, economics, law, and religious studies), preferably with an emphasis on American-European relations.


Professor Bruce Kuklick was the Fulbright-Dow scholar at the Roosevelt Study Center

from January through April 2008. In the four months at the RSC, he finished writing a handbook on American history for use in introductory courses. The book is focused on U.S. politics within a religious context. His purpose was to write a book about the core themes of American history, which could be accompanied by other, more specialized books. Next to writing this handbook, Bruce Kuklick traveled extensively throughout the Netherlands. This included guest talks at Dow Benelux, at several universities, and at the annual Netherlands American Studies Association meeting.

From September through December 2008 Professor Gerard N. Magliocca of Indiana University School of Law filled the Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair. At the RSC he worked on a research project examining the authoritarian regime established in Louisiana by Huey P. Long and its impact on ideas about democracy and fundamental rights during the 1930s and used the RSC's extensive archival collections on that era. Professor Magliocca gave several guest lectures in the Netherlands as well as at the universities of Ghent, Belgium, and Copenhagen, Denmark. 

Ph.D. Seminars for Dutch Students


Four times in 2008 seven Dutch Ph.D. students in American History and American Studies have met at the RSC to discuss the progress of their work and gain new insights in selected aspects of American history. The Fulbright-Dow scholars contributed their expertise to these stimulating seminars. Professor Bruce Kuklick organized two seminars in March and April to highlight the influence of the Puritan tradition and the Enlightenment in American history.

At the September meeting the students also read each other's work and reviewed the structure and clarity of the arguments. These exchanges helped them to clarify their projects and keep the end goal and the main debates in mind. In the December meeting, Fulbright-Dow scholar Professor Gerard Magliocca discussed his research project, the relationship between Huey Long and the New Deal. Since two dissertation projects in the group specifically deal with southern history, this was a fruitful exchange. The pleasant, safe and positive atmosphere at the RSC significantly contributed to these relevant exercises which greatly help to improve the quality of graduate research in the Netherlands. 


New Acquisitions at the RSC Library

New Public Diplomacy Records

Thanks to grants of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Zeeland Library, the RSC was able to purchase photocopies of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This archive is located in the Special Collections section of the University of Arkansas Library, Fayetteville, Arkansas. These records cover the period 1950-1970 and consist of annual reports, planning documents, analyses, memoranda and related material concerning the State Department's educational and cultural exchange programs. The papers are divided per region: Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Rest of the World. This allows insight into the different ways in which U.S. educational and cultural programs were used in different contexts during the Cold War.

The records for each country are the complete files as available from the University of Arkansas. These public diplomacy records are an important addition to the RSC's archives on U.S. foreign relations since they offer insights on another type of cross-border contacts alongside economic, diplomatic, and military negotiations during the Cold War. 

60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Eleanor Roosevelt proudly displays the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Mrs. Roosevelt is often called the mother of the declaration. To mark the 60th anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of this important document on December 10, 1948, the RSC participated in a research seminar on Eleanor Roosevelt and the UDHR for Roosevelt Academy students who studied the RSC's Eleanor Roosevelt Papers. The students' research results were presented at a conference on December 10, 2008 in The Hague. 



*Eleanor Roosevelt,
First Lady of the World.*

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 do research in the attractive and pleasant ambiance of the RSC library, which holds numerous U.S. historical documents not available anywhere else in Europe. In 2008 the following persons received an RSC Research Grant for their projects:

- Krzysztof Flis (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland), "The Eisenhower Administration and Vietnam, 1953-1956" (Ph.D.);
- Gijs Stolk (Leiden University, the Netherlands), "The Radicalization of Robert F. Williams in the Period 1956-1961" (B.A.);
- Annick Cizel (Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France), "Nation-Building in the Philippines: Rooseveltian Statecraft for Imperial Modernization" (article);
- Laura Maessen (Leiden University, the Netherlands), "Robert Parris Moses and the SNCC: The Role of Organizational Leadership in the Production of Social Change during the Civil Rights Movement, 1960-1965" (Ph.D.);
- Christopher Minck (Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France), "Diplomacy and Desegregation in the United States: African Americans in Congress and in the Department of State from 1961 to 1969: Tools or Lobby?" (Ph.D.);
- Janice C. Holbrook (University of Edinburgh, U.K.), "Eleanor Roosevelt and the Equal Rights Amendment: Views on Feminism in Changing Times" (M.A.);
- Rogier van Nierop (Leiden University, the Netherlands), "Time(s) and Nixon: The Image of Nixon in Time Magazine and The New York Times during the American Presidential Campaigns of 1960 and 1968" (M.Phil.);

- David Charles Horten-Middleton (Cambridge University, U.K.), "An Investigation into New Deal Educational Policy Regarding Native Americans" (B.A.);
- Maarten Zwiers (University of Groningen, the Netherlands), "Between Party and Principle: The Political Life of James O. Eastland" (Ph.D.);
- Michael Boyden (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium), "Linguistic Autobiographies of European Immigrants in U.S. Literature, 1870-1924" (book);
- J. Simon Rofe (University of Leicester, U.K.), "Visions from Washington: Explaining the Philosophical Bases of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration's Foreign Policy in Postwar Planning" (book).



*Researchers in the
RSC library.*

European students seeking a Masters or Ph.D. in American history as well as advanced scholars are invited to apply for the 2009 Research Grants. Application forms and relevant information on the RSC archival collections can be downloaded from the RSC website: www.roosevelt.nl. 

Just Published

Information

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


At a well-attended meeting in the RSC auditorium on June 5, 2008 Dutch Minister of State Hans van Mierlo (left) accepted the first copy of *Networks of Empire: The U.S. State Department's Foreign Leader Program in the Netherlands, France, and Britain 1950-70* (Brussels: Peter Lang, 2008) from the author Giles Scott-Smith, senior researcher at the RSC. Himself a recipient of the Foreign Leader Program in 1968, former Minister of Defense and of Foreign Affairs van Mierlo spoke about his own experiences during that turbulent year in the United States, including his meetings with Robert F. Kennedy and Henry Kissinger, and his visit to the headquarters of the Black Panther Party in San Francisco. 

Just Released




Roosevelt CD Champagne Charlie

On the occasion of the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony on May 24, 2008 the new CD, "Waitin' on Roosevelt," produced by the Middelburg band Champagne Charlie and featuring 21 songs on Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and their times, was presented to the audience, including the queen and the laureates. Sponsored by the RSC and the Roosevelt Stichting, this CD, including a booklet with the song texts and historical information on the era, can be ordered at www.champagnecharlie.nl 

Update on "Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations"

To contribute to the 400th anniversary celebration in 2009 of Henry Hudson's voyage on the Dutch East India Company's ship *De Halve Maen* and his discovery of Manhattan in 1609, the RSC senior staff in cooperation with nearly a hundred Dutch and American scholars in 2008 has written and edited the many contributions for the projected 1,000-page illustrated volume *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009*. This first comprehensive history of

the Dutch-U.S. relationship is based on the most up-to-date research in this field and will be published in September 2009 by Boom in Amsterdam and State University of New York Press in Albany, New York. Sponsorship has been provided by Delta N.V. in Middelburg, The Netherland-America Foundation in New York, the A.C. Van Raalte Institute of Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague. 

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Champagne Charlie
Billy Graham Center
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Franklin D. Roosevelt
Library and Museum
Theodore Roosevelt
Collection, Harvard
College Library
Kirsten Virágh
Paul Vromen

A Look Ahead

Upcoming events at the RSC in 2009

Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, March 20

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 will be awarded to the winners, as well as a trip to "Roosevelt sites" in the U.S. for the first prize winner.

International Ph.D. Seminar, April 21-23

Based on the success of the 2003, 2005 and 2007

seminars for American history Ph.D. students from the RSC and the universities of Cambridge, Sorbonne Nouvelle, and Heidelberg, the RSC has scheduled a 2009 international Ph.D. seminar in April.

Book Presentations Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, Summer and Fall

The official presentation of the RSC book project *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009* has been tentatively scheduled for late August/early September. The definitive date will be announced on the RSC website. The editors will present the book at several conferences in the Netherlands and the United States in the fall of 2009.