

Post- field Report on Erfgoed Nederland-sponsored conference and inter-disciplinary contacts and meetings with Dutch scholars. – November 24, 2009

My seven day (Oct. 14 – Oct 20) Erfgoed Nederland-sponsored visit as part of the International Visitors Program can be summarized in three task categories: 1) my participation in the conference “Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations”, 2) meetings the invitation afforded to meet with archaeologists and material culture specialists, specifically with Don Duco and Dr. Benedict Goes at the Pijpenkabinet museum of pipe history and technology in Amsterdam, and with Oscar Hefting and Hans van Westing of the New Holland Foundation, and 3) the opportunity it provided me to visit and have meetings with specialists at the Hortus’s of Amsterdam and Leiden, specifically with Drs. Erik Zevenhuizen and Lena Euwens of the Amsterdam Hortus and Dr. Gerda van Uffelen of the Hortus Botanicus of Leiden.

I: **The Conference highlights - Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations:** My invited paper, “New Insights into Dutch Material Culture of 17th Century New Amsterdam”, summarized my recent work on revising the early 17th century chronology of my original excavation of the first shore front block of the Dutch West Indian Company in Lower Manhattan. Originally perceived to be mid-to late 17th century, new comparative artifact dates from Jamestown, Va. and Holland now suggest that earliest archaeological evidence in Manhattan now dates as far back as the second quarter of the 17th century, or between the 1630’s to 1640’s. The paper also briefly illustrated the utility of plotting the geographic distribution of imported yellow “Leiden” bricks throughout the Western Hemisphere as indicators of colonial Dutch presence and regional interconnections. Finally, the presentation briefly highlighted my current work on the ethnobotany and changes in local plant diversity between the early 17th to early 18th centuries in the colonial urban environment of Lower Manhattan, New York.

My slide illustrated talk took place in tandem with that of Dr. Jaap Jacobs, who addressed issues of Dutch history from archival sources. Both our discussions were followed by a joint question and answer period that turned into a lively discussion between the presenters, colleagues and students participants.

As a direct result of feedback from attendees at the conference, it was a great honor, and personal highlight of this session, to be invited by Anouk Fienieg of the *Center for International Heritage Activities* to combine my planned visit to the Hortus Botanicus of Leiden with a request that I offer an impromptu afternoon seminar to students of archaeology on current research issues and debates concerning the culture history, environment and land use patterns of New Amsterdam.

Finally, the invitation to visit Holland and based on discussion stemming from my earlier work with Dr. Jaap Jacobs for the installation on the Henry Hudson exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York, I used the conference session as a vehicle to present an un-accessioned sample of a ca. ca. 1630 Dutch yellow “Leiden” brick recovered from the excavation site just minutes before it was destroyed ahead of construction. The scientific gift was both symbolic of the import of Trans-Atlantic collaboration and important as a critical laboratory sample to facilitate inter-regional trace-element analysis and comparison between examples currently being studied both in Holland, Brazil and the Caribbean.

On a personal note, I was honored by the invitation to share the evening’s dinner table and engage in lively discussions with Dirk Tang of the National Library of the Netherlands who also chaired the

conference session I participated in with Jaap Jacobs. Both the conference and the dinner event provided a gracious opportunity to establish friendly relations and bonds of common research interests across disciplines that otherwise would not have come together. Specifically, in response to our discussion of the distribution of known imported yellow “Leiden” bricks in the Americas, Dirk Tank helped “fill in” my incomplete graphic illustrating yellow “Leiden” bricks in the New World by sending me information on relevant finds of imported 17th century yellow bricks in Guiana.

2: Institutional meetings with Colleagues in Archaeology:

a) The New Holland Foundation: In direct response to my request to be provided with the opportunity to meet with archaeological specialists in Dutch historical archaeology and with those working in South America in particular, Barbara Consolini arranged a Sunday morning meeting between myself and Oscar Hefting and Hans van Westing of the New Holland Foundation. This half-day meeting took place at the historic fortified town of Naardan, in concert with my long-standing work on military history in general and interest in Dutch fortification technology as it pertains to possible manifestations of early Dutch forts in the New York region.

Our visit quickly focused on issues of artifact dating and bastion design. We became so involved, that Oscar Hefting arranged for us to use the park office to review slides of Dutch-era material culture from New York and to discuss issues of the logistics of working in Brazil, a current focus of the New Holland Foundation, and an area where I had worked in the past.

These discussions in turn led to two categories of continued bi-lateral collaboration and mutual assistance. One stemmed from my need to have the most current insights by Dutch scholars on the age of specific classes of 17th century artifacts from New Amsterdam. With the collaboration of Barbara Consolini, images of specific ceramic types were sent to Oscar Hefting and Hans van Westing to be shared with ceramic specialists in Holland in order to learn of the most current dates being assigned to them by Dutch scholars. The second aspect of continued collaboration involved the exchange of information from applied technology experts in the United States on potentially useful GPS and mapping systems that might help with ongoing fieldwork in the Amazon basin. Contacts were made with allied sources of equipment in South America, and background information was provided concerning the availability of satellite coverage in support of these systems in Brazil. Finally, instead of acting as a North American, or United States intermediary, we were able to put Hans van Westing in direct contact with software and hardware providers in Brazil in support of ongoing and future research in that region.

b. The National Pipe Museum: In response to my pre-trip invitation by Dr. Benedict Goes, my visit to Naarden was followed by an afternoon meeting with Don Duco and Dr. Goes at the of the Pijpenkabinet museum. This introduction and extended visit with both gentlemen was immediately pertinent to my ongoing work on the archaeology and chronology of early New Amsterdam. As far back as the 1980's, when I directed the excavation of the Dutch West India Company block in Lower Manhattan, the dates of introduction for specific early Dutch pipe types provided the earliest time markers for the initial occupation at the site. However, the generally accepted dates for other pottery types were some 20 years later and as such it was thought at the time that the “Duco pipe dates” were too early. However in light of new comparative artifact dates from Jamestown and elsewhere, it is not

apparent that the Duco pipe dates were correct and that the other time markers have to now be pushed back in time to coincide with those initially identified by the work of Don Duco. In other words, his chronology was and continues to be the most accurate and as a result it is now possible to say that the earliest manifestation of Dutch material culture in Manhattan Island coincides with the initially defined dates for pipe bowl time markers in New Amsterdam, now dateable to the early 1630's.

Given the critical importance of these studies to both Dutch and North American archaeology, my visit to the pipe museum served two major functions: 1) it permitted me to acquaint myself with the most current dating evidence for pipe morphology and, 2) it provided me with the opportunity to acquire several of the most important museum publications on pipe dating and technology. In addition to reviewing my data and sitting together to review a selection of slides from my conference talk, Dr. Goes provided me with a detailed tour of the museum and explanation of new findings and dating evidence for different pipe types from the 17th through 19th centuries.

Finally, consistent with the focus on interdisciplinary reciprocation and collaboration, I was honored to be asked to assist the curators of the pipe museum in helping to facilitate the publication of an important article by Don Duco on his most current insights into the age of "E.B" pipe bowls and makers marks that play so important role in dating North American historical sites in the New York region. In response, I suggested that perhaps the best regional outlet might be the Bulletin of the New York State Museum and have taken steps to request their assistance and guidance in helping to facilitate this important example of Trans-Atlantic collaboration.

c. Visits to the Hortus of Amsterdam : In direct response to my request to visit the botanical gardens of Leiden and Amsterdam, and following weeks of email planning and organization by Barbara Consolini, it was my pleasure of spend a half-day at reach facility. My aim was to actually see the layout of both gardens and to meet with the botanical experts at each facility in support of my ongoing work on the of 17th plant remains recovered from my archaeological excavations of New Amsterdam.

These two visits were immediately pertinent to my current research into the food and medicinal plants that I had identified from the archaeological remains. I wanted to see and photograph the modern reconstruction of the Clusius-designed garden in Leiden and to learn from both visits of the most current research and articles so that I should return home with the most current Dutch books and articles on garden history, the international exchange in exotic and medicinal plants and to learn, in particular, what new insights existed concerning the interplay between the Hortus of Leiden and the Dutch West India Company officers, doctors and their plant collecting mandates and operations.

All of my goals were met. At the Amsterdam Hortus, I was honored to spend the afternoon with Dr. Erik Zvenhuizen and the garden Director, Lena Euwens, for a delightful tea and to review current sources and their research on 17th century plant history. We also took the opportunity to exchange current slide images of historic maps on New Amsterdam and for me to receive a Powerpoint copy of the archaeological investigations at the Hortus of Amsterdam. I followed-up, through subsequent email exchanges, with copies of text descriptions of the historical background of the map of New Amsterdam I had provided. My visit was highlighted by a most thoughtful gift of a copy of the garden's outstanding Amsterdam University Press publication, **Kruidenier aan de Amstel: De Amsterdamse Hortus volgens**

Johannes Snippendaal (1646) – a key publication that includes lists of imported New World plants in the 17th century inventory of the Hortus, and an important source for the identification of potential North American plants in the original Hortus collections. For this kind gift, and their gracious hospitality, I am very grateful.

d) Visit to the Hortus of Leiden: My request to visit the Hortus Botanicus of Leiden reflected my desire to 1) see the layout of the reconstructed garden, 2) to learn about the Clusius Project, and in particular the status of the digitizing of his letters into an online repository, and 3) to meet with staff to learn about the most current published and on-line sources that I should be aware of and acquire in support of my current research into the 17th century plants I had identified from the excavation of the waterfront block of the Dutch West India Company in Lower Manhattan, New York.

To this end, Barbara Consolini had arranged to both escort me to the Hortus and for me to meet with Dr. Gerda van Uffelen, collections Manager at the Hortus of Leiden. This meeting proved both highly informative and provided substantive information and clarifications over misunderstandings on my part over the nature of the Hortus as a botanical garden of exotic plants and collectables, versus being specifically a medicinal garden, as I had thought before my visit.

In addition, Dr. Uffelen provided me with information on the most current research into the life, and work of Clusius and for each question I posed, offered a host of specific references and on-line computer links to important sources and data. My visit with her also provided me with the opportunity to acquire a copy of the 2008 volume: **Drawn after Nature: The Complete Botanical Watercolors of the 16th Century**. This important production by the staff of the Hortus provides critical new insights into the history of the Hortus of Leiden and the life and work of Clusius - information that I was previously unaware of and would otherwise not have known of without having the opportunity to visit Leiden.

Dr. Uffelen also provided me with computer links to digitized copies of various work by Clusius and links to important resource works for microscopic and archaeological seed identification. These resources were important to my own work and have been forwarded to colleagues working in paleo-ethnobotany at the NASA-Lamont-Doherty laboratories at Columbia University...with much appreciation.

e) General Comments: Finally I want to express my sincere appreciation to those responsible for my invitation to participate in the conference and for facilitating my extended visit under the auspices of the AWAD and the International Visitors Program. I particularly wish to thank, Jaap Jacobs, Dirk Tank, Hans Krabbendam for providing me with the honor to have been invited to speak as part of the Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations conference. I also wish to acknowledge and extend a special thanks to Barbara Consolini of the Netherlands Institute of Heritage for her months of patient organizing, coordination and gracious assistance in preparation, and throughout the duration, of my trip. I have participated in a number of international exchange programs in South America and Eastern Europe, but can say without reservation that this experience stands out as the best organized and most scientifically fruitful that I have experienced. This experience has provided a solid framework for continued bilateral exchanges and collaboration between North American and a range of Dutch scholars in a number of fields.