

Organized by the
National History Museum of Latvia with the
support of the Royal Netherlands Embassy and
the Directorate of Baltic Trade and Shipping Companies



More information and programme on
www.netherlandsembassy.lv

Dutch Baltic

Symposium on
relations in a historical perspective
24–25 April 2008, National History Museum of Latvia, Riga



Background

Relatively unknown to many people, the Netherlands and the Baltic region had extensive contacts and relations in previous centuries and exerted considerable influence on each other's economic and political developments. In the Middle Ages, many cities in the Netherlands and the Baltic region were linked in the famous Hanseatic League, which laid the foundations for the rise of capitalism and the merchant class in Northern Europe. In the 17th century, Dutch merchants dominated trade and shipping between the Baltic region and the rest of Europe, with Amsterdam functioning as a pan-European distribution centre. This so-called “Mother Trade” underpinned the prosperity and economic development in Holland's “Golden Age”. The extensive commercial contacts in those times led to many other contacts and exchanges in the fields of culture, architecture, education and religion, the legacy of which can still be seen today in many buildings, churches, paintings, etc. in the region.



Format

The symposium “Dutch-Baltic relations in a historical perspective” brings together experts from the Netherlands and various countries in the Baltic region to discuss and present interesting materials and insights into the fascinating, but largely unknown legacy of Dutch-Baltic connections. At the symposium, experts will give short oral presentations, supported by visual materials, on various topics related to the history of Dutch-Baltic relations. The presentations are grouped into thematic sessions, followed by an inter-active discussion. Conference languages are English and German. The symposium is open to the public, free of charge. After the symposium, articles based on the presentations at the symposium will be collected and compiled into “Symposium Proceedings”, due to be published by the end of 2008.



Organization

The symposium is organized by the National History Museum of Latvia, which is assisted in this task by a Steering Committee of eminent experts, consisting of:

Dr Arnis Radiņš, Director of the National History Museum of Latvia;
 Prof. Dr Ojārs Spārītis, Latvian Academy of Arts;
 Dr Elita Grosmane, Director of the Institute of Art History in Latvia;
 Dr Joost C. A. Schokkenbroek, Curator of the Netherlands Maritime Museum in Amsterdam in the Netherlands;
 Dr Hanno Brand, Director of the Hansa Study Centre of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.



Themes

Maritime archaeology, maritime contacts, trade, politics and diplomacy, art and architecture, religion, painting and literature from the Middle Ages till the 20th century.



Speakers *(tentative, subject to changes)*

Keynote speakers: Prof. Dr James C. Kennedy (U. S.),

Prof. Dr Jaap R. Bruijn (the Netherlands)

Latvia: Dr Arnis Radiņš, Prof. Dr Ojārs Spārītis, Dr Imants Lancmanis, Anita Meinarte, Dr Kristīne Ducmane, Anna Ancāne, Dr Zane Gailīte, Dr Valters Ščerbinskis, Silvija Križēvica, Astrīda Rogule

The Netherlands: Dr Els van Eijck van Heslinga, Dr Perry Moree,

Drs Martijn R. Manders, Prof. Dr Konrad A. Ottenheim,

Dr Clara Strijbosch, Prof. Dr Pieter N. Holtrop, John de Jonge,

Dr Dirk van de Vijver, Drs Nicolaas Vanderveen, Dr Lennart Bes,

Dr Joost C. A. Schokkenbroek, Martijn Poppe, Frederik Erens,

Dr Johannes A. Mol, Dr Hendrik J. van de Roemer,

Dr Hendrik A. Hachmer, Prof. Dr Thijs J. Maarleveld

Estonia: Dr Anu Mand

Lithuania: Liutauras Kazakevicius

Finland: Zuma Zeeling

Denmark: Erik Goebel

Sweden: Dr Jānis Krēsliņš

Poland: Dr Jacek Tylicki, Tomasz Bednarz

Russia: Dr Boris Makarov, Natalia Kopaneva



Programme

As the programme evolves and is subject to changes, an updated version of the programme can be found at www.netherlandsembassy.lv.



Holland Days 2008

The symposium forms part of the programme of Holland Days 2008, and coincides with an exhibition on Dutch-Baltic maritime relations with collections of the Museum of History of Riga and Navigation in Riga, the Veenkoloniaal Museum in Veendam (the Netherlands) and others, to be held in the Mentzendorff Museum from 28 March till 1 June, 2008. Information on the programme and other activities in the framework of Holland Days 2008 can be found at www.netherlandsembassy.lv.