



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Netherland Club of New York records

1903-2013

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Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2015.

Summary

Creator: Netherland Club of New York

Title: Netherland Club of New York records

Date: 1903-2013

Size: 17.58 linear feet (40 boxes, 2 volumes, 2 oversized folders)

Source: Gift of the Netherland Club of New York, 1998 and 2014.

Abstract: The Netherland Club of New York is a private social and professional organization centered on Dutch culture, history, and the fostering of Dutch-American relationships. The Netherland Club of New York records date from 1903 to 2013 and contain meeting minutes, annual reports, correspondence, financial records, newsletters, photographs, and other materials that document the Club's activities.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Netherland Club of New York records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

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Creator History

The Netherland Club of New York is a private social and professional organization centered on Dutch culture, history, and the fostering of Dutch-American relationships. Dutch Minister W.A.F. Baron Gevers is credited with initiating the incorporation of the Netherland Club in 1903, and was the club's first honorary president. Other founding leaders were J. Rypperda Wierdsma, president; Herman J. Von Hemert, vice president; secretary A. Gips; and W.F. Piek, treasurer. Within its first year, the Club leased a townhouse at 47 East 25th Street, providing dining and leisure spaces for its members and rooms for newly-arrived immigrants from The Netherlands. Many of the Club's early supporters consisted of local businessmen.

From 1912 to 1939, the Netherland Club of New York resided at 3 Gramercy Park West, and then

relocated to The Holland House at 10 Rockefeller Plaza, also home to the Dutch Consulate General. During the Second World War, the Club was visited by Princess Juliana, followed by Queen Wilhelmina in 1942. In 1974, membership was opened to women, and after the Club's 75th anniversary in 1978, membership reached an all-time high.

Support from the Club's luncheon restaurant coupled with Dutch and American corporate funding has allowed the organization to flourish relatively consistently throughout its existence. The organization of the Netherland Club is typical of most social or professional groups, consisting of a Board of Directors; various committees; and corporate, honorary, and individual members. The Club hosts a wide range of activities and events, including concerts; luncheons; traditional Dutch game evenings; political debates; professional networking events; exhibitions; lectures; cultural tours; and regular events featuring members of the Netherlands Delegation, the United Nations, and various political groups. The Club has developed several annual events throughout the years, including the Queen's birthday celebration, a golf tournament, the Haring & Heineken Harmonica, and the New Year's reception by the Dutch Consul General.

The Netherland Club relocated to 3 West 51st Street in 1992 and has remained there as of 2015.

Scope and Content Note

The Netherland Club of New York records date from 1903 to 2013 and document the administrative, social, and professional activities of the group, with particularly strong representation of the Club's membership and special events programming. The activities of the Netherland Club between 1903 and 1920 are documented almost exclusively through board meeting minutes, annual reports, and correspondence, with many materials in Dutch. There is very little documentation from the 1930s.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or format and contains correspondence, annual reports, meeting minutes, financial records, event photographs, committee reports, newsletters, membership directories, and other materials. Meeting minutes of the board of directors and the annual general meeting are extensive and record the Club's administrative and location history, event planning, membership guidelines, and other activities and traditions of the Club. Correspondence relates primarily to event planning and membership issues. Also present are typescripts of two books: *The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank* (Willy Lindwer, 1992) and *England Spiel Ontmaskerd* (Pieter Hans Hoets, 1990).

Arrangement: The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or format.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Annual reports
Financial records
Minutes (administrative records)
Photographs

Subjects

Clubs -- New York (State) -- New York
Dutch -- Manners and customs

Dutch Americans -- New York (State) -- New York

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Advisory Council 1989-1990
- b. 1 f. 2 Algemeen 1985-1995
- b. 1 f. 3 American Hospitality Management Co 1979-1987
- b. 1 f. 4-7 Anniversaries 1973-1983
 - Annual General Meeting
- b. 1 f. 8-11 1982-1989
- b. 2 f. 1-11 1987-1999
- b. 3 f. 1-11 1999-2013
 - Annual Reports
- b. 4 f. 1-5 1904-1953
- b. 5 f. 1-6 1953-1977
- b. 6 f. 1-4 1978-1991
 - b. 6 f. 5 Appraisal of Property 1969-1979
 - Artifacts
- b. 38 f. 1-3 Dutch Club Tiles and Plaque 1978-1990
- b. 39 f. 1-3 Printing Blocks 1940s
- b. 40 f. 1-3 Printing Blocks 1940s
 - b. 6 f. 6 Auction 1973-1974
 - b. 6 f. 7 Barbizon Project 1984
 - Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- b. 6 f. 8 1903-1911
- b. 7 f. 1-7 1903-1970
- b. 8 f. 1-7 1971-1976
 - o. 1 1976
 - Diazo type plan of bar and elevations at the Netherland Club of New York, 50 Rockefeller Plaza.
- b. 9 f. 1-7 1976-1979
- b. 10 f. 1-5 1980-1984
 - o. 1 1981
 - Diazo type floor plan of Charley O's, 10 Rockefeller Plaza.
- b. 11 f. 1-8 1985-1991
- b. 12 f. 1-10 1990-1998
- b. 13 f. 1-8 1999-2004
- b. 14 f. 1-6 2004-2009
 - b. 14 f. 7 Bridge List 1974
- b. 14 f. 8-11 Business Plans 1988-1994
 - b. 15 f. 1 Bylaws 1925-1980
 - b. 15 f. 2 Caterers 1982-1987
 - b. 15 f. 3 Computer System 1981
- b. 15 f. 4-7 Centennial Celebration 2002-2003

- b. 15 f. 8 Contracts 1985
- b. 15 f. 9 Convocations to Members 1972-1973
- b. 16 f. 1-2 Convocations to Members 1976-1981
- Correspondence
 - b. 35 f. 1 1903-1908
Bound letters.
- b. 16 f. 3-10 1903-1990
- b. 17 f. 1-7 1991-2002
 - b. 17 f. 8 Dokter, Henk 1994-1995
 - b. 17 f. 9 Dutch American Golf Tournament 1999-2001
 - b. 18 f. 1-5 Dutch American Golf Tournament 1999-2007
 - b. 18 f. 6 European Business Card Exchange 2000
- b. 18 f. 7-11 Events 1967-2011
- Financial Records
 - b. 37 f. 1-2 1941-1962
Stock certificates.
 - b. 19 f. 1-8 1964-1987
 - b. 20 f. 1-9 1988-2006
 - b. 21 f. 1 Food Service Trade Reception 1993
 - b. 21 f. 2 General Security Agreement 1992
 - v. 1 Guestbook 1903-1973
 - v. 2 Guestbook 1957-1973
 - b. 21 f. 3-4 Half Moon Trophy 1980, 1982
 - b. 21 f. 5 Historische Gegevens 1950-1983
Historical data.
 - b. 21 f. 6 History of the Netherland Club 1943
 - b. 21 f. 7 Holtkamp, Hein 2001-2003
 - b. 21 f. 8-10 House Committee 1970-1981
 - b. 21 f. 11 Hudson Cards 2008
 - b. 21 f. 12-13 Kitchen 1989-1992
 - b. 21 f. 14 Klaverjassen 2009-2010
 - b. 21 f. 15 KLM/Northwest Airlines Herring Happening 2000-2003
 - b. 22 f. 1 Koninginnedag 1995-2005
Queen's birthday.
 - b. 22 f. 2 Koudstaal, Erik 1989-1998
 - b. 22 f. 3 Lease--Rockefeller Plaza 1965-1981
 - b. 22 f. 4 Liquor License 1989-2005
 - b. 22 f. 5-7 Marketing Plans 1994-1996
- Membership
 - b. 22 f. 8-10 1973-1990
 - b. 23 f. 1-8 1991-2009

Membership (cont.)

- b. 24 f. 1-4 Directories 1993-2005
- b. 24 f. 5-10 Directory Advertising 1997-1999
 - b. 25 f. 1 Menus 1973-1978
 - b. 25 f. 2-5 Miscellaneous 1946-2012
 - b. 25 f. 6 Netherlands American Amity Trust 1980-1982
 - b. 25 f. 7 Netherlands National Anthem 1972-1973
 - b. 36 f. 1 Netherland Publishing Corporation 1941-1955
Bound certificate of incorporation and other records.
 - b. 25 f. 8 Netherland Publishing Corporation 1947-1957
 - b. 26 f. 1-7 Newsletters 1990-2008
 - b. 26 f. 8 Personnel 1978-1984
 - b. 26 f. 9 Picnic Garden Party 2009
 - Photographs
 - b. 26 f. 10 1920s-circa 1970
 - b. 33 f. 1-6 1938-1989
 - o. 2 1952
 - b. 27 f. 1-7 1970s-1990s
 - b. 28 f. 1-7 1995-2002
 - b. 29 f. 1-4 2002-2007
 - b. 34 f. 1 2003
Centennial celebration photograph album.
 - b. 29 f. 5 PR and Communicatie Project 2011
 - b. 29 f. 6 Questionnaire 2004
 - b. 29 f. 7 Renovation Project 1983-1990
 - b. 29 f. 8 Reports 1984, 1986
 - b. 29 f. 9 Sampel Brieven 1974-1988
 - b. 35 f. 2 Scrapbook 1940-1945
 - b. 29 f. 10 Silent Auction 1993
 - Special Events Committee
 - b. 29 f. 11-13 1972-1973
 - b. 30 f. 1-9 1973-2000
 - b. 31 f. 1-6 1978-2012
 - b. 31 f. 7 *Steal a Pencil for Me* 2007
 - b. 31 f. 8 Sponsorship 2000-2001
 - b. 31 f. 9-10 Typescripts 1991
England Spiel Ontmaskerd (Churchill Knew It).
 - b. 32 f. 1-3 Typescripts 1990-1991
England Spiel Ontmaskerd (Churchill Knew It) and *The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank*.
 - b. 32 f. 4 Verisign 2002
 - b. 32 f. 5 Workman's Compensation 2002

b. 32 f. 6 Yearbook 1978, 1990