

Breech loading cannon with cylinder block, 18th century Bronze

Museum of the City of New York, gift of the Mrs. Winthrop W. Aldrich Fund, 76.9

This swivel cannon with the VOC mark was found at the site of the World Trade Center in 1967. It was originally thought to belong to Adriaen Block's ship *Tijger*—as were charred timbers found in the same location in 1916, although subsequent research has shown that the timbers date from the 1700s. The marks on the cannon, which may originate from the same ship as the timbers, indicate that it was made by Amsterdam gun maker S. Crans after 1715. The gun is an example of the armament of Dutch ships of that period and of the enduring reach of the VOC.

Beads, Seneca-Iroquois, 1600–1620

Rock Foundation Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, NY

Some of the Native American objects displayed here represent implements they made and used, such as pottery, arrowheads, and stone drill points. Although they worked in copper, they did not have access to iron implements until the arrival of Europeans.

Beads were used as both a means of exchange and as decoration.

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European iron knife blade with Native-made bone handle, c. 1650

Rock Foundation Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, NY,
RFC 6161/100, 6167/100

Dutch delftware chocolate cup/ Pendant
made of delftware shard, c. 1655

Rock Foundation Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, NY,
RFC 875/99, RFC 733/24

Like the other display of Dutch and Native American items here, these object pairings show how the Indians copied Dutch models or adapted Dutch trade goods to their own purposes.

Dutch cootie [lice] comb/ Native cootie comb
after Dutch example, c. 1600

Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam
Rock Foundation Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, NY,
RFC 12113/89

Portrait of a man, thought to be Henry Hudson

Digital reproduction
Museum of the City of New York

Very little biographical information is known about Henry Hudson. He was an English navigator who lived in London. He had a wife, Katherine, and three sons, Oliver, John, and Richard. It is possible that he descended from Henry Hudson the elder, alderman of London in 1555. All other information we have pertains to the four voyages that Hudson made between 1607 and 1611. There were many depictions of the man, all speculative, as no verified contemporary portrait is known.

Execution of Johan van Oldenbarnevelt, c. 1619

Engraving
Special Collections, University of Amsterdam, [Pr. G 19]

After the conflict between Remonstrants and Counter-Remonstrants had ended through the military intervention of Prince Maurits, landsadvocaat Johan van Oldenbarnevelt was charged with high treason. He was beheaded in 1619.

Giacomo Gastaldi/ Giovanni Ramusio,
Untitled (The Northeast/New York City), 1556

Bert Twaalfhoven Collection, Fordham University Library, Bronx, NY

This early map of the American northeast was published along with Giovanni da Verrazano's report of his exploration of the area, which took place 32 years earlier. Verrazano clearly identified present-day New York Bay beyond the Narrows, but the flow of the present-day Hudson River is not correct. The exaggerated proportions of several features on the map are an indication of the early stage of exploration.

Jan Velten, American Beaver, 1700

Color drawing (gouache)

Artis Library, Special Collections, University of Amsterdam,
[Legkast 238, folio 59-60]

The Dutch back in Europe were intensely interested in reports of the strange flora and fauna in the New World. Collectors who were interested in flora and fauna often arranged for rare animals to be brought back to Europe, dead or alive. For those who could not afford their own collection, an Amsterdam inn called “Blauw Jan” offered the opportunity to view some overseas exotica. Amateur artist Jan Velten made a total of 265 drawings, which he combined in a volume called Wonders of Nature.

Jan Velten, American Eagle, 1700

Color drawing (gouache)

Artis Library, Special Collections, University of Amsterdam,
[Legkast 238, folio 23-24]