

Heritage Day Russia

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Report

Centrum Internationale Erfgoedactiviteiten
Centre for International Heritage Activities



Heritage Day Russia

Russia – the Netherlands, our common heritage

During the Heritage Day Russia that took place on March 19 2010 in the Library of the University of Amsterdam the concept of reciprocity recurred many times. How does exchange of knowledge in the field of cultural heritage takes place between the Netherlands and the Russian Federation? What can both countries learn from each other in the field of cultural heritage? This also formed the starting point for the symposium *Russia – the Netherlands: Our common heritage* that was organized in close cooperation with the Russian counterpart the Peter the Great's Historical Society. The symposium took place on October 19 2010 in Saint Petersburg. Just as the Dutch conference, it was hosted by a library that plays an important role in the preservation of our common heritage: the National Library. This was the fifth counterpart Heritage Day organized by the Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE).

The general aim of the Heritage Days is to create more coherence between the various cultural heritage projects and to discuss coordination between foreign partners and cooperation with the Netherlands. With the upcoming bilateral year of the Russian Federation and the Netherlands in 2013 in mind this symposium also offered the participants the opportunity to present new projects and ideas for future cooperation. Therefore, the symposium was structured around various themes that are laid out by the Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cultural Heritage as was concluded in June 2009 by the Russian Ministry of Culture and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. In general, the Heritage Day also gave the participants the chance to meet colleagues from throughout the country and become inspired by each other's initiatives. In addition, participants could display their projects in or with the Netherlands by means of poster presentations. At the symposium more than twenty-five posters were presented which gave detailed information on completed, running and future projects in the field of cultural heritage.

Overview of the day

At the National Library a large and diverse audience gathered for the conference. Participants not only originated from Saint Petersburg, but also from cities such as Arkhangelsk, Astrakhan, Kaluga, Kemerovo, Moscow, Saratov, and Yaroslavl. The presence of participants from cities other than Saint Petersburg was made possible by funding of the Dutch Wilhelmina E. Jansen Fund. As head of the Peter the Great's Historical Society and chair of the day Mrs. Natalia P. Kopaneva opened the symposium by remarking the importance of organizing such a symposium in Saint Petersburg. Saint Petersburg is not only a city that bears visual traces of a shared history between Russia and the Netherlands; there are also several organizations that have a long tradition in cooperation with the Netherlands in the sphere of cultural heritage and science. In his words of welcome our host the deputy director of the National Library Mr. Vladimir R. Firsov noted that the National Library is one of the centers for the study of Russian-Dutch mutual heritage. The consul-general of the Netherlands in Saint Petersburg Mr. Antony van der Togt drew the attention of the participants to the bilateral year of Russia and the Netherlands in 2013. Mr. Pavel V. Kouzmine of the Dutch Embassy in Moscow further explained about the year 2013. On

behalf of the CIE, the vice-president of the Board of Trustees Pauline Kruseman described several joint projects that already have been successfully implemented by Russian and Dutch museums, libraries and archives. The coordinator for heritage projects Anouk Fienieg introduced the CIE and its objectives, structure and projects. She not only gave an overview of the outcomes of the Heritage Day in Amsterdam, but also introduced the Mutual Cultural Heritage Database.

This introduction was followed by lectures, presentations and discussions that had been grouped in three sections: 1. *Built Heritage and Landscape Architecture*, 2. *Academic Research, Scientific Collections and Museums*, and 3. *Archeology, Maritime Archeology and Naval History*. Each section was introduced by a chairperson who is an expert in this discipline of cultural heritage himself.

Presentations

Section 1: Built Heritage and Landscape Architecture

Chair: Andrey L. Reyman

This section contained both presentations of current projects and of new proposals for projects in the field of built heritage and landscape architecture.

As was concluded from the presentations, the main focus in this sphere is on eighteenth century country estates. During the time of Peter the Great Dutch architects were involved in the construction of country estates and their gardens. An important project is already going on in the Summer Garden of Saint Petersburg, where the Netherlands Culture Heritage Agency (RCE) is involved as an advising partner. Mr. Sergey Gorbatenko gave a report of the critical assessment of the restoration project of the Summer Garden in comparison with the restoration of the garden at the palace Het Loo in the Netherlands. Another important current project was presented by Mrs. Irina V. Zakharova who is involved in the restoration project of modernist Dutch architecture in the Siberian city of Kemerovo, also in close cooperation with the RCE.

Not only in Saint Petersburg, but also in Moscow and Astrakhan traces of the influence of Dutch (landscape) architects and gardeners can be found. Both Mr. Aleksandr Veksler, chief archaeologist of the city of Moscow, and Mrs. Anna Ananieva, researcher and fellow of the University of Mainz (Germany) introduced in their presentations the figure of Nicolaas Bidloo. For Peter the Great he constructed a palace and garden ensemble that is one of the points of interest for the Archeological Service of Moscow. Mrs. Ananieva presented Bidloo's private country estate on the river Yauza in Moscow. The ensemble has not been preserved in the modern urban landscape of Moscow.

In her presentation Mrs. Elena Gusarova showed the possibilities for researching Peter the Great's Summer Palace and adjacent gardens in Astrakhan. It is not preserved, but can be restored by means of both archival and architectural research.

Chair Andrey Reyman introduced one of the view examples of mutual cultural heritage of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation that actually is located in the Netherlands. His proposal concerns the country estate 'Petersburg' of Christoffel van Brants situated at the river Veght. During his visits to the Netherlands Peter the Great stayed at the estate of the wealthy merchant Brants, who gained his fortune through trade with Russia. The ensemble served as an important example for Peter the Great.

Section 2: Academic Research, Scientific Collections and Museums

Chair: Inga G. Lander (National Library), Natalia P. Kopaneva

In addition to the presentations in this section three subthemes were added: *Art Collections*, *The Siebold's Collections in Saint Petersburg*, and *Conservation of museum and archival collections*.

The first theme *Art Collections* was represented by experts from different Russian cities. They all have long-term relationships with their Dutch counterparts. The Russian and Dutch experts cooperate in the study and the registration of Dutch paintings, drawings, and engravings in collections in Russian museums.

Natalia Y. Markova presented the collection of seventeenth century etchings of the State Pushkin Museum (Moscow) in the light of the cooperation with her museum and the Foundation for Cultural Inventory (SCI, the Netherlands) on the production and writing of catalogues of Dutch and Flemish art in the museum collection. Marina V. Zvereva from the Kaluga Regional Art Museum and Tatiana E. Savitskaya of the Saratov State Art Museum also successfully worked together with the SCI. Mrs. Zvereva gave a presentation of the works of Dutch art in the private collection of Prince Dmitry Gorchakov, now in the Kaluga Regional Art Museum, and how the museum closely cooperated with the SCI on the inventory of the collection. Mrs. Savitskaya told about how her museum and the SCI worked together on the inventory and digitization of the collection of Dutch and Flemish art on the database website www.culturalheritage.cc. Raisa A. Zakharova showed how in the 19th century an image of the Netherlands was constructed through collecting books and engravings of the 16th-18th century.

The second theme *The Siebold's collections in Saint Petersburg* contained three reports. Recently various Dutch institutions showed interest in working together with Russian colleagues on the research of the scientist and collector Franz von Siebold who – in service of the Dutch state - played a key role in the exchange of knowledge between 19th century Japan and Western Europe. His ethnological, natural historical, and art collections can be found in the various institutions in the Netherlands, but also in several Russian institutions. Cooperation on this theme could also imply exchange of knowledge on the preservation of natural history collections in Russia.

Aleksandr Y. Sinitsyn of the Kunstkamera gave an overview of the 'sieboldiana' in Saint Petersburg. Not only in the Kunstkamera, but as Alisa E. Grabovskaya showed in her presentation also in the collection of the Komarov Botanical Institute sieboldiana can be found: this Institute has a large collection of botanical sieboldiana. Tamara A. Chernaya gave a presentation on Siebold's around 300 botanical illustrations in the library collection of this institute.

The third theme *Conservation of museums and archival collections* raised questions about the need to combine efforts on the conservation, preservation and restoration of museum collections.

Yuri K. Chistov presented the history of the longstanding cooperation of the Kunstkamera with Dutch counterparts since 2002 and its results. The early eighteenth century anatomical collection of Frederik Ruysch in the collection of the Kunstkamera form the main focus of this successful cooperation. Curator Anna B. Radzyun and Maria V. Khartanovich further explained about the on-line project on the anatomical collection of Ruysch in the Kunstkamera. Yuri V. Starikov of the Zoological Institute Saint Petersburg and Lyudmila G. Starikova, restorer of the State Museum of History if Saint Petersburg, further spoke of the

demand for exchange of knowledge in the field of restoration of natural history collection, in particular botanical and zoological collections. They propose to organize a master class on this topic with Dutch experts. Svetlana V. Uspenskaya told about the successful cooperation of the Military-Historical Museum of Artillery, Engineer and Signal Corps in Saint Petersburg with the Military Museum in Delft (the Netherlands) and the National Archive in The Hague (the Netherlands) on collection management.

As well as these subthemes three further presentations on *Academic Research, Scientific Collections and Museums* took place.

Boris S. Makarov gave a survey of the programs of the Netherlands-Russia Centre in Groningen (the Netherlands). This contained an overview of ten year research in Russian archives on Dutch cultural heritage, such as the history of trade between the two countries, the connection between the Romanovs and the Oranges, diplomatic relations, and Dutchmen and their descendants in Russia. Makarov proposed to establish a memorial house for famous and influential Dutchmen in Saint Petersburg.

Natalia N. Shpanova of the Arkhangelsk Region Museums shed a light on the artifacts collection of Willem Barentz' expedition to Novaya Zemlya. The objects are scattered throughout different museums in Russia. The expedition has become an almost mythical benchmark in the history of Russian-Dutch mutual cultural heritage. It still a topic that attracts the attention of both Russian and Dutch researchers, as is clear from the recent project of The Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency.

Viktor L. Derzhavin, archeologist at the Russian Academy of Science, introduced the late sixteenth century Dutch merchant Simon van Schalingen. Mr. Derzhavin proposes a research project to Van Salingen who in pre-Petrin era played an important role in the establishment of trade and diplomatic connections between Russia and the Netherlands.

Section 3: Archeology, Maritime Archeology and Naval History

Chair: Pavel A. Krotov (Saint Petersburg State University)

The strong influence of Dutch ship building and seaman took off in the time of Peter the Great. After his travels to the Netherlands Peter the Great invited Dutch specialists in the field of ship building, trading and navy to work in Russia. Chair Pavel Krotov proposed a project on a monograph of Dutch seaman and shipwrights in Russia in the time of Peter the Great. Tamara Petrovna Mazur further told about Peter the Great's and Catharina's invitations to Dutch sailors and ship builders to work in Russia.

Peter Y. Sorokin and Nikolay V. Novoselov showed in their presentation through archaeological data how cultural interaction between Russia and the Netherlands took place in Saint Petersburg. They also told about Dutch ships in the Finnish Gulf and the ship wrecks that still can be found in the surrounding waters of Saint Petersburg. This topic also formed the basic assumption of the presentation of Andrey V. Lukoshov of the maritime archeological project 'Underwater Heritage of Russia'. The conditions of the water in the Finnish Gulf contributes to the state of condition of the ship wrecks on its bottom. Lukoshkov proposed not only to research Dutch ship wrecks together with Dutch experts. But he also proposed the museification of the battleship Portsmouth, that was constructed by Dutch ship builders. This vessel can offer the opportunity to showcase an well preserved example of Dutch ship building.

Book presentation: Nicolaas Witsen's *Noord en Oost Tartarye*

In the framework of the symposium the presentation of the Russian edition of Nicolaas Witsen's *Noord en Oost Tartarye*, published by Pegasus (the Netherlands), took place. It is the first publication of the travel account through Russia of the seventeenth century diplomat, traveler, scientist, and mayor of Amsterdam Nicolaas Witsen in an annotated and Russian translation. The first copy was given to the consul-general Mr. Anthony van der Togt and the director of the Kunstkamera Yuri Chistov during the special reception on the occasion of the symposium at the consul-general's residency. On October 20 in the Kunstkamera a special lecture on the history of Witsen's travel account through Russia and of the history of the publication of the book was given by prof. Bruno Naarden (the Netherlands) and Mrs. Natalia Kopaneva of the Peter the Great's Historical Society.

Conclusions and recommendations

The large and diverse audience and the high amount of lectures and presentations showed the great interest for the common history and the mutual cultural heritage of Russia and the Netherlands. Russian experts from various regions have already been working on topics of mutual cultural heritage before it became official policy. Important events for the establishment and the strengthening of contacts and cooperation between Russian and Dutch counterparts were the anniversary years 1996 (Peter the Great) and 2003 (Saint Petersburg). In the last twenty years the contacts and cooperation in the field of cultural heritage between the two countries have been enlarged and extended.

Conclusions

- *Strong academic tradition*
Russian experts in the field of mutual cultural heritage represent a strong academic tradition. Whether they are trained as historian, archaeologist, zoologist, art historian, garden specialist, or architect, they all attach great importance to a theoretical and academic basis for a research or project. This means a focus on a profound research.
- *Emphasis on Petrin era*
Peter the Great is - not surprisingly - seen as the highlight of the common history and mutual cultural heritage of Russia and the Netherlands by many Russian experts. The history of Peter's travels to the Netherlands and his calls for service to many Dutch craftsmen, traders and scientists is well known. Although contacts existed long before this period, Petrin era is generally considered as the starting point for bilateral relations between Russia and the Netherlands. Petrin era also formed the basic assumption for the bilateral celebration in 1996 of the Peter the Great Year and played an important role in the Dutch contribution to the 300th anniversary of the city of Saint Petersburg in 2003. The legacy of Peter the Great still forms an important topic in the heritage practice of Russian experts. As was brought forward in the presentations this does not mean an exclusive focus on Saint Petersburg. The tangible traces of the Dutch influence during Petrin era can be found in other regions as well, such as Moscow and Astrakhan.
- *Emphasis on topics and projects in Russia*
The greater part of the projects that have been presented or proposed at the symposium take place within the borders of the Russian Federation itself. This was not only the case at this conference, but also at the Heritage Day for Dutch experts working with Russia that took place in Amsterdam. This does not count for exhibitions organized by Russian and Dutch counterparts, often as a cooperative research program. These exhibitions often take place in both countries.
- *Centre vs. region*
Due to the traditional focus on Peter the Great and his legacy a lot of attention has been paid to the mutual heritage of Russia and the Netherlands in Saint Petersburg and its surroundings. As has been put forward in the presentations and as can be seen from the various current projects, this is changing. Not only the legacy of Peter the Great offers a possibility for regional diversity (Moscow, Astrakhan). But also the tangible traces of the common history from other centuries offer possibilities, such as the current project on built heritage in Siberia.

The diverse backgrounds of the present experts and their institutions also confirms the broad interest for Russian-Dutch heritage.

- *Demand for exchange of knowledge*

Exchange of knowledge in the field of cultural heritage is demanded on different levels. Firstly, starting from the academic tradition there is a need to exchange knowledge in the field of academic research. This is mainly inspired from the point of conducting and improving the possibilities for research to topics related to mutual cultural heritage, for example better access to archives, primary and secondary source materials. This demand for exchange of knowledge exists in all different spheres of heritage as were discussed during the symposium. In addition to the academic component, it also means a possibility for network building.

Secondly, there is a demand for the exchange of knowledge on a more practical level. As has been put forward in various presentations, exchange of knowledge in the field of collection management (preservation, restoration, and digitization), museums (museification and presentation practice), and built heritage & landscape architecture (restoration and reallocation) has already been implemented or is currently worked on. Still, there is an ongoing demand for exchange of knowledge in these spheres. Also new topics were brought forward, such as the museification of maritime archeology.

Recommendations by the Centre for International Heritage Activities

In consideration of the upcoming bilateral year 2013 and with regard to the symposium and the conclusions stated above the Centre for Heritage Activities recommends taking a closer look at the following topics:

1. stimulation of exchange of practical knowledge

Collection management: restoration, preservation, digitization

Exchange of knowledge in the field of collection management offers a possibility to go beyond the notification of mutual cultural heritage. By using collections that are an example of mutual cultural heritage of Russia and the Netherlands as the starting point for exchange of knowledge and by holding sustainability as an objective, not only examples of a common history are preserved, but the overall heritage of Russia can benefit from such programs.

Art collections

Various projects in the field of collection management have already been successfully implemented. Dutch institutions, for example the Foundation for Cultural Inventory, organized workshops and master classes by Dutch specialists in Russia in order to realize exchange of knowledge. The success of these projects is twofold: it improved both the condition and the accessibility

of collections. Not only Russian museums, but also libraries and archives benefitted from these programs. In the past such projects have mainly been carried out with art museums, for example with Dutch and Flemish art in their collections. The large amount of Russian museums with such collections asks for continuation of these projects.

Natural History collections

Also other types of museums and collections need attention, in particular natural history collections that are delicate by nature. In addition to the extensive project with the anatomical collection of Frederik Ruysch in the Kunstkamera, the keepers of botanical and zoological collections demand for an exchange of knowledge in the field of preservation and restoration in order to preserve the collections for future generations.

A starting point for such a project is the divers collection of 'sieboldiana'. The botanical and zoological objects can be found in various Russian museums and institutions. Not only Russian, but also Dutch experts showed great interest in this topic. It offers a chance for exchange of practical knowledge in the field of restoration and preservation of botanical and zoological objects (including paper, flora, leather, fur, skin et al).

Built heritage & landscape architecture: restoration and reallocation

Recently the reallocation of industrial heritage, country estates and (adjacent) landscape architecture face an increasingly expanding attention of Russian experts, local and federal government and the public. Important steps have already been taken by the cooperative projects of The Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency and their Russian counterparts in Saint Petersburg, Yaroslavl and Kemerovo.

The demand for exchange of knowledge in the field of built heritage and landscape architecture is by and large inspired by the need for practical assistance. In some cases, a typical Dutch construction or building material is not known to local architects or gardeners. This does not mean that the Russian architects and experts are a *tabula rasa*. To the contrary, Russian experts often have a clear view of the history of a building or garden, but need additional practical or theoretical information on certain construction elements that are not known to Russian construction or building style.

new functions

Reallocation and re-use of built heritage and landscape architecture is a field of knowledge where exchange is greatly needed. The tendency to rather build a new building than to restore or renovate led to a shortage of knowledge in the field of reallocation of built heritage and landscape architecture, which in the last twenty years has become popular in Western Europe, especially with industrial heritage. The awareness that a reconstruction of heritage to the original layout is not sufficient but that a building needs a new purpose and function is also starting to grow in Russia.

A pitfall can be the re-use of built heritage as cultural projects. In the last twenty years in Western Europe a lot of successful projects were undertaken to transform former industrial zones into cultural hot spots. These cultural

spaces are now set as successful examples for the development of Russian industrial areas. However, it does not mean that every Russian industrial zone can be successfully turned into a cultural project. In fact, there are simply too many of such industrial regions. More attention should be paid to the development of other functions (social, commercial) in cooperation with local government and entrepreneurs.

Maritime archeology: museification and theoretical knowledge

The various Dutch ships that found their last resort on the bottom of Russian territorial waters such as the Finnish Gulf offer an interesting new theme in the mutual cultural heritage of Russia and the Netherlands. Since most Dutch traders and sailors used the Baltic Sea – apart from Willem Barentz – to reach Russian soil, Dutch shipwrecks are mainly found in the northwestern regions, in particular in the Leningrad region. Because of the good conditions of the Russian waters, the ship wrecks are often very well preserved. Maritime archeology is definitely a topic that should get more attention with regard to the upcoming year 2013.

exchange of theoretical knowledge

Since maritime archeology is in comparing with other disciplines a rather young heritage discipline, there is a great demand for exchange of knowledge both on the level of academic knowledge and on the level of practical knowledge. The activities of construction companies on the bottom of the Finnish Gulf and the Baltic Sea, for instance for the construction of the Northern Pipeline of Gazprom, increase the demand for practical cooperation. Academic knowledge of Dutch shipbuilding is needed in order to identify and examine the found ship wrecks. This can be achieved through both cooperation with Dutch experts and the translation or publication of specialist literature.

museification

The disturbance of the seabed has a great influence on the preservation of the shipwrecks. In order to save these ships, Russian maritime archeologist many intend not to leave them *in situ*, but to bring them to the mainland. Russian experts intend to showcase the shipwrecks and to display the objects found in it. Since there is little experience with the museification of shipwrecks, Russian experts ask for the exchange of practical knowledge in the field of museification. This is a great opportunity for Dutch museums and institutions to exchange their experience on the display of ships and ship wrecks with new partners in Russia.

working methods

As official Russian policy on maritime archeology is not extensively developed, it is very important for future cooperation in this field of mutual cultural heritage that the Russian counterpart supports, subscribes and acts its intentions and its working methods according to the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage of UNESCO (2001). This as well as the destination and the ownership of objects found in shipwrecks should be clearly indicated by Russian experts before a joint venture is started.

2. stimulation of network building and exchange of theoretical knowledge

Russian experts are very interested in extending their network. This can be stimulated by the organization of workshops and master classes in order to achieve exchange of practical knowledge. In order to realize exchange of knowledge in the field of theoretical and academic knowledge, Russian experts consider it as highly important to organize an international conference or symposium with Dutch experts. This is connected to the Russian manner of cooperation, which is largely based on a personal relationship between counterparts. A personal relationship is highly valued for maintaining a sustainable cooperation.

conference

When reciprocity is taken as a starting point for cooperation between the two countries, an international conference should be considered as very important. The bilateral year of 2013 offers the possibility to organize such an event. Both heritage institutions and academic institutions should be present in order to achieve the combination of the practical and the theoretical field. Such an event could be organized before the year 2013 in order to stimulate new cooperation and projects for this celebration. Another option is to choose 2013 in order to give a state of the art of the implemented and current projects by both governmental and private Russian and Dutch counterparts.

involvement of the young generation

The younger generation is currently less involved in heritage projects than is desirable for the sustainability of knowledge, relations and cooperation. In the theoretical field this is largely dependant on the strong academic tradition with its focus on profound theoretical research. However, the practical field offers more chances for the involvement of the younger generation. This should be stimulated by more cooperation on education and training. In order to reach sustainability it is also important to include the younger Russian generation in the above mentioned event.

3. projects in the Netherlands

According to the MoU on Mutual Cultural Heritage reciprocity is one of the basic assumptions of the cooperation between Russia and the Netherlands. From this point of view it is striking that almost all cooperative projects take place within the borders of the Russian Federation, apart from joint exhibition projects.

inventory of Russian-Dutch heritage in the Netherlands

In order to fully develop reciprocity between the two countries, the possibilities for projects Russian heritage on Dutch soil should be researched. For example, in Amsterdam and Zaandam the house of Peter the Great can be found. Another bright example is the legacy of Princess Anna Pavlovna (1795-1865), wife of King William II and sister of tsar Alexander I. Lesser known is the Russian Field of Honor for soldiers of the Red Army who died as prisoners of war from the Nazi's in Kamp Amersfoort. An inventory of the tangible traces of Russian-Dutch history in the Netherlands could improve and stimulate reciprocity of the mutual cultural heritage of the two countries.