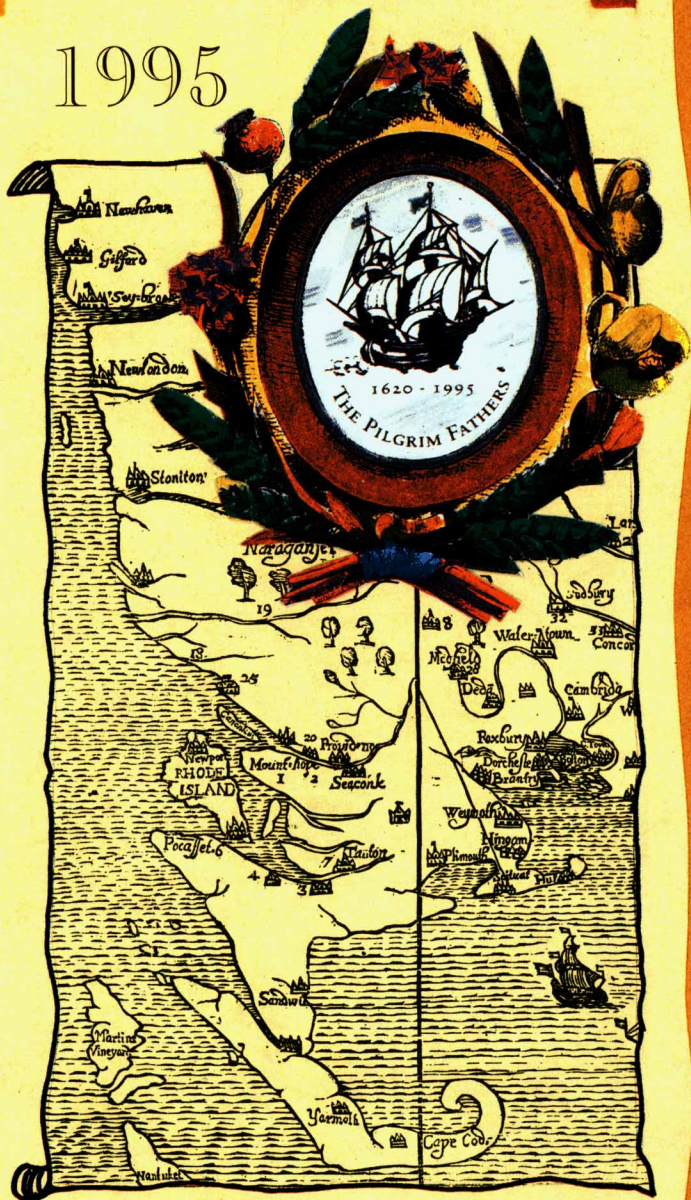


1995



Pilgrim Fathers
Memorial Year

Congresses

The Pilgrims fled from England to the tolerant Netherlands because Queen Elisabeth and King James, as head of the Church of England, would allow no deviating beliefs. In Leiden the *Pilgrim Press* was established which exposed the British prosecution. It was allowed to operate, despite official protests from London. The growing need for a place of their own finally led to the passage to the *New World*. The day before they set foot on American soil, they signed the *Mayflower Compact*, the constitution for their small community in which the basic freedoms were guaranteed.

The Pilgrims' story could be written today: people are still on the run from poverty and persecution. Freedom of conscience and expression are not commonly accepted. Around this theme, three international congresses will be organized by Erasmus University Rotterdam. One about the freedom of the international press, another about Roosevelt's 'Four Freedoms' (freedom of speech and expression, of worship, from want and from fear), and one about migration. The Leiden University is organizing a congress about the Pilgrims' religious influence. Economic ties between the Old and the New World will be the theme of a congress organized by, among others, the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.



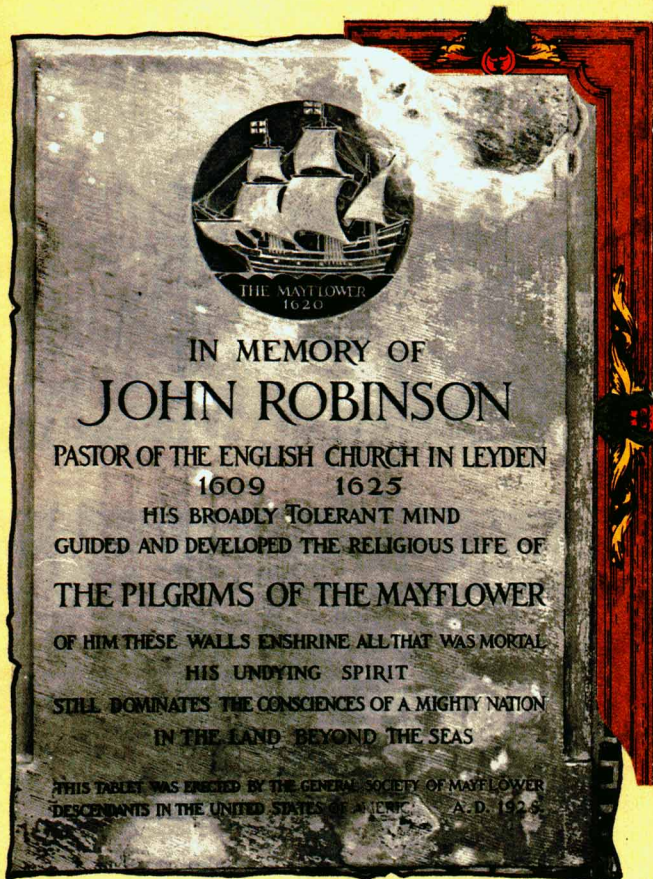
Freedom of the International Press, Amsterdam, October 1995, Erasmus University of Rotterdam (EUR).
The Four Freedoms, Rotterdam, November 1995, EUR with the Roosevelt Center, Middelburg.
Migrants and immigrants, Rotterdam, September 1995, EUR.
The religious influence of the Pilgrims, Leiden, 1995, Leiden University.
Mainports to Europe and America (in the trail of the Pilgrims), Rotterdam, September 1995, Ministry of Transport (Netherlands), together with the Port of Rotterdam, Schiphol Airport, Netherlands Distributionland and the Ministry of Economic Affairs.



Pilgrim Trail

The first Pilgrims who fled to Holland settled in Middelburg and later in Amsterdam, but soon they all moved to Leiden where ample housing was available and where the magistrates offered them protection. After twelve years in Leiden a part of their community decided to travel to the New World as they did not wish to assimilate into the Dutch society. In the seaport of Delfshaven, they boarded the *Speedwell* to go to America.

Along the historical places Amsterdam, Leiden, Delft and Rotterdam-Delfshaven the *Pilgrim Trail* will be established. A guide book will be published and special programs in Amsterdam, Leiden and Delfshaven will be set up. In Delfshaven a permanent Pilgrim exhibition will find its place in the Pilgrim Fathers Church. Together with tour operators in the US and the Netherlands, the National Dutch Tourist Board and KLM, special Pilgrim trips will be provided. Finally, the MS *Maasdam* of the Holland America Line will call on the port of Rotterdam with over a thousand American visitors on August 16, 1995 as part of the celebration.



Pilgrim Trail, March through November 1995, Amsterdam, Leiden, Delft, Rotterdam-Delfshaven.
MS Maasdam, August 16, 1995, Rotterdam, Holland America Line.

Pilgrim Regatta



On July 22, 1620 the Pilgrims left from Delfshaven on the *Speedwell*, which was not quite seaworthy. In Plymouth, England, the *Speedwell* was joined by the bigger *Mayflower*, which carried Pilgrims from England. After the *Speedwell* almost sank off the English coast, its passengers transferred to the *Mayflower* and, after a delay, together they continued their quest. It took more than two months to cross and they landed at Cape Cod on November 11, 1620 after an adventurous passage.

Exactly 375 years later the Pilgrim Fathers Foundation will organize a race for sailing yachts from Delfshaven to Cape Cod. They will take the short route of 3,500 miles. The faster *multihulls* will make a detour via the Azores. Weeks before the start of the race, more leisurely skippers will set sail for a *cruise* via Plymouth (UK) and the Azores. An impressive maritime event will be organized at the start of the Pilgrim Regatta on the *Nieuwe Maas*, around the Veerhaven in Rotterdam and in the historical part of Delfshaven, which is now part of Rotterdam. On arrival in Province Town on Cape Cod, maritime festivities will take place. In all likelihood the yachts will subsequently sail on to Ellis Island, a small island off Manhattan where the immigrants who arrived with the



Exhibitions

The Pilgrims could not carry much on their passage. The first winter they lived off the food they brought. They even had to eat part of the seed they brought to plant in their first spring. Not every Pilgrim survived that first winter. During their first spring, in the settlement of Plymouth, which they named after their last port of call in England, across the bay from Cape Cod, their culture met with that of the native Americans. Two Indians, by the names of Squanto and Samoset helped the Pilgrims with their knowledge of agriculture. In those days there was a lively trade between travelling European salesmen and the

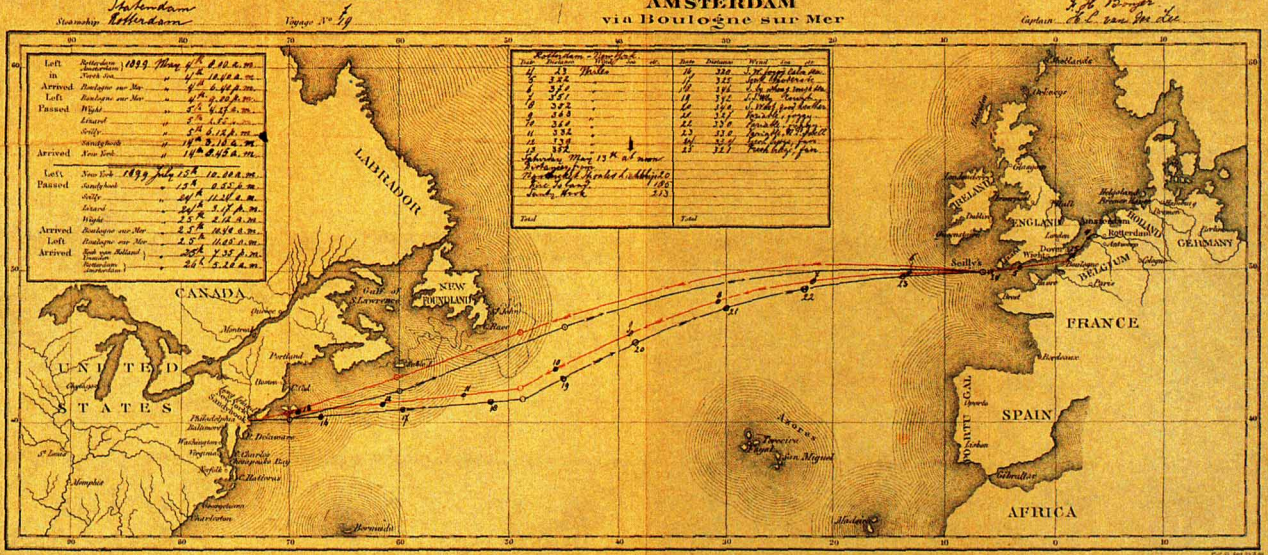


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Holland America Line, were processed. Through the active cooperation of the European Committee a strong international field of contestants is expected.

Sailing cruise

route Rotterdam - Plymouth UK - Azores - Cape Cod
 start June 7, 1995
 distance 4,300 miles

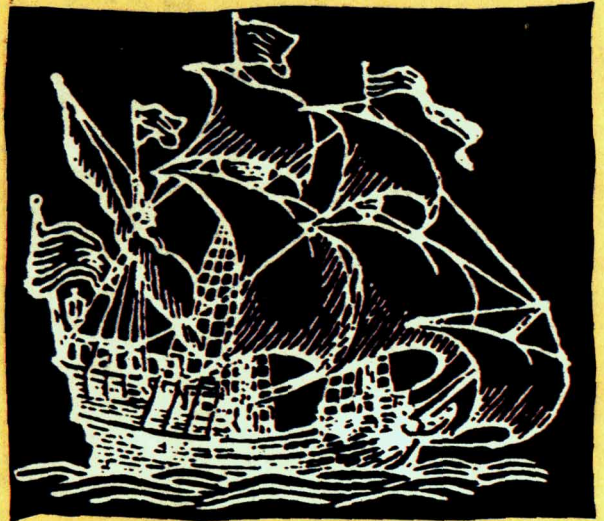
Sailing race monohulls

route Rotterdam - Cape Cod
 start June 27, 1995
 distance 3,500 miles

Sailing race multihulls

route Rotterdam - Azores - Cape Cod
 start June 27, 1995
 distance 4,300 miles

Around July 20, 1995 the contestants of both races and the cruise will arrive in Province Town near Cape Cod. There the ships will parade along Cape Cod, Plymouth and Boston in a sailpast. Several days later the yachts will begin their passage to Ellis Island.



local Indian tribes. A good illustration of the value of things was the price the Dutch paid the Indians for the island of Manhattan in 1626: the equivalent of 60 guilders, which equalled 30 beaver skins or 4320 white Wampum beads or 1200 earthenware cooking pots.

In New York many artefacts of this period of mutual cultural influence are preserved. Utensils of one culture could be regarded as curios or even ritual objects in the other. The Pilgrims learned a great deal from the Indians and they used their tools. Some museums in New York possess utensils from excavations from the Iroquois-Seneca. Together with Dutch archeological collections they provide an inspiring insight in the daily life of New Netherlanders and Pilgrims. The Museum Boymans-van Beuningen in Rotterdam creates an exhibition using these collections.

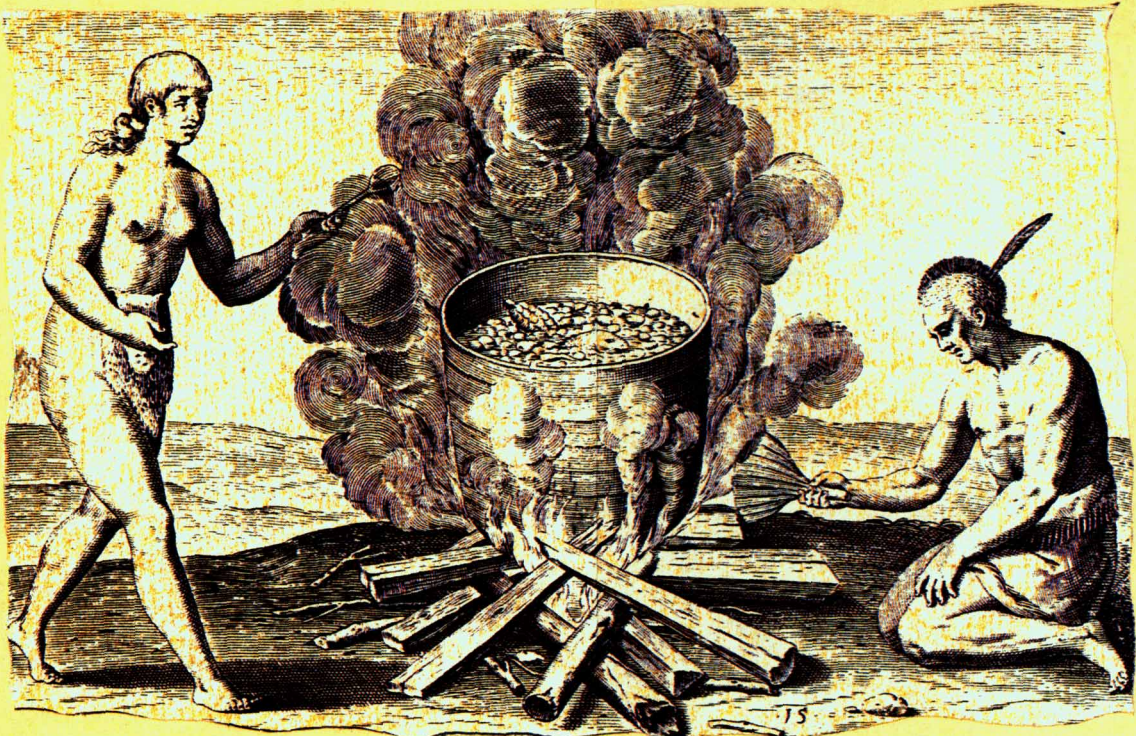
Curators of the Maritime Museum Prins Hendrik will present an exhibition about the role Rotterdam has played in the great waves of emigration, especially through the Holland America Line. In Delfshaven a small, permanent exhibition will open about the Pilgrims' passage to America. Finally the Pilgrim Memorial Leiden Foundation puts together an exhibition about the Pilgrims' life in the Netherlands.

Trade, trash or treasure? Utensils in a New World; Material cultures of Iroquois Indians and New Netherlanders, September through November 1995, Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam. At later dates the exhibition will travel through New York: Rochester Museum of History and Science, Brooklyn Museum in New York City and New York State Museum in Albany. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue, a volume of essays and a booklet for children. Also an international symposium will be held.

Four centuries of emigration from Rotterdam, Maritime Museum Prins Hendrik Rotterdam, March through September 1995.

Pilgrim Collection, Lakenhal, Leiden, permanent, starting summer 1995.

Pilgrims in Delfshaven, Rotterdam Delfshaven, permanent, starting summer 1995.



Pilgrim Fathers Memorial Year

Almost 375 years ago, in 1620 the *Speedwell* sailed from Delfshaven; a small vessel of 60 tons, heading for America. On board were English Calvinists who were victims of religious persecution in their own country. For twelve years they had been guests of the tolerant nation of Holland, but in the end they chose for an uncertain future on the American east coast. They would later be known as 'the seed of the nation': the foundation of the American society. Their resilience is commemorated on *Thanksgiving*, every year on the fourth Thursday of November.

The Pilgrim Fathers Foundation organizes numerous events in 1995 to keep the Pilgrims' quest for freedom alive. Their *Mayflower Compact*, the first American constitution, was derived from the unique judicial system of the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands. It guaranteed freedom of conscience and expression. The strive for freedom has remained a current topic through the ages: for the millions of east Europeans who emigrated from Rotterdam with the Holland America Line, and for many millions around the world today, for whom basic freedoms are still out of reach.

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