

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## Albany Institute of History & Art

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## NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**JANUARY 19, 2012**

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### **AIHA TO HOST DR. ERIC RUIJSSENAARS “THE LIVES OF ABRAHAM STAATS” LECTURE ON JANUARY 29**

ALBANY, NY— On Sunday, January 29 at 2 PM the Albany Institute of History & Art will welcome Dr. Eric Ruijsseenaars to tell the enthralling life story of Abraham Staats, a Dutch Founding Father of Albany. Dr. Ruijsseenaars is a Senior Scholar in Residence at the New Netherland Institute, and possesses his own Bureau of Historical Research, named Dutch Archives ([www.dutcharchives.com](http://www.dutcharchives.com)). The event will be **FREE with museum admission**.

The lecture will examine Abraham Staats’ varied roles in the Capital Region, beginning with Staats’ 1642 emigration from Amsterdam to Kiliaen van Rensselaer’s vast estate, Rensselaerswijck (now part of Albany and Rensselaer counties). As a surgeon, Staats not only treated ailing residents, but also acted as advisor to the Patroon. He served as a magistrate of the court; and outside the court, he was often called on to resolve disputes between his neighbors. Well-respected within Rensselaerswijck, Staats was also something of a diplomat. Entitled to trade in beavers, he learned the Algonquin Indian language and was therefore able to act as an intermediary between colonists and Native Americans. The sloop Staats purchased to further his commercial interests placed him in contact with leaders in New Amsterdam and allowed him to develop a personal relationship with Peter Stuyvesant.

Following the talk, guests are invited to explore Albany’s Dutch colonial history by visiting the permanent exhibition *Traders and Culture: Colonial Albany and the Formation of American Identity*, located on the third floor of the museum. The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue, Albany. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with a valid ID, \$6 for children 6-12, and FREE for members and children under 6.

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*Related Exhibition:*

**TRADERS AND CULTURE: Colonial Albany and the Formation of American Identity**

PERMANENT COLLECTION

This exhibition showcases the settlement and burgeoning of Albany as an urban center during the 17th and 18th centuries. Features include Limner portraits, Albany-made silver, branded furniture, ceramics, textiles and manuscript materials with documented family histories. The silver collection portrays strong regional characteristics influenced by Dutch material culture and includes forms such as tankards, mugs, salts, brandy bowls

and funeral spoons. Among the rarest pieces in the ceramics collection is the 17th century Dutch utility ware. *Third Floor Galleries*

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The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of performances, lectures, and festivals, to its outstanding educational and family programming, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. Visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) for more information, and be sure to follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute](https://www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute)).

The Albany Institute of History & Art is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM-5 PM and Sundays NOON-5 PM. The museum is closed on Monday and open for pre-registered groups only on Tuesday. The library is open Thursdays 1:30-4:30 PM and by appointment.

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