



PRESS RELEASE

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## **New Netherland Museum Publishes Official 2009 Hudson Quadricentennial Poster for the Ship Half Moon**

Captain William “Chip” Reynolds of the replica ship Half Moon has unveiled the official New Netherland Museum Hudson Quadricentennial poster. The colorful 24”x36” illustrated posters depict the Half Moon sailing into an antique-style map of the Hudson River Valley, embellished with the names of communities along its banks, and an image of Henry Hudson with the dates 1609 – 2009.

Created to heighten the public’s awareness of the namesake of our region’s river, the poster will be sold as a fund-raising souvenir for the non-profit organization, as well as an educational tool for students in the classroom and visitors to the ship.

2009 marks the 400th anniversary of Captain Henry Hudson’s original Voyage of Discovery on board the Dutch East India Company ship Half Moon (Halve Maen), a journey which led directly to the founding of the New Netherland colony and, with time, the formation of the city and state of New York as we know them today.

New York is commemorating this event with the 2009 Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, a state-wide, year-long celebration with the Half Moon as its centerpiece. In addition, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the replica ship Half Moon’s launch.

Photographer/designer James Douglas and illustrator Mike Jaroszko, both Hudson Valley residents, collaborated on the creation and publishing of this year’s official poster, along with other Quad products. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of any products containing the poster image goes directly to support the New Netherland Museum and its mission of education through adventure. Their website is at [www.jamesdouglasgallery.com](http://www.jamesdouglasgallery.com).

### **New York’s Colonial History Began in 1609**

The original Half Moon was the first European ship to document entry into what we now call the Delaware Bay and River, and to explore the Hudson River to its navigable limits. The Half Moon and its crew entered the mouth of the river in the Fall of 1609 in search of a northeast trade passage to the Orient. Hudson sailed upriver as far as present-day Albany.

Reports from this extraordinary voyage led Dutch beaver traders to establish trade within the Hudson River Valley, erecting Fort Nassau at the present site of Albany, NY. By the mid 1620s New Netherland,



as this trading colony became known, extended outward from the Hudson River Valley eastward to the Connecticut River, and south to the Delaware River.

### **The New Netherland Museum's Replica Ship Half Moon**

The New Netherland Museum is the non-profit, educational institution that owns and operates the Half Moon as a traveling museum dedicated to public education about life in New Netherland during the 17th century. The Half Moon is a full-size, operating replica of Hudson's original ship, which conducts public and school based educational programming in history, math and science.

Long range plans call for the development of a land-based living history site in association with a permanent berth for the Half Moon. The New Netherland Museum is supported financially by memberships, individual and corporate donations, and by financially supportive hosts who invite the Half Moon to appearances throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

Visitors to the Half Moon step into a full-scale time machine. Once aboard the ship, the visitor sees and feels the experience of life aboard ship 400 years ago. Dressed with accurate flags, sea chests, navigational instruments, and tools of the marine trade, Hudson himself could step aboard and feel right at home.

The ship accurately reflects the colors and designs of the Dutch East India Company ships from the early 17th century, and crew members are often dressed in clothing typical of sailors from this period.

Most of its time is spent operating in the historic waters of New Netherland, with extensive operations on the Hudson River and extending outward to the Delaware River and Bay and to the Connecticut River.

The Half Moon is fully operational. Hidden within the ship is the gear necessary to modern operations, including a Diesel engine, electric generator, sewage and fresh water holding tanks, and modern navigational equipment. However, the ship frequently operates in the traditional manner under sail alone.

### **Education is Central to the Half Moon's Mission**

Awakening a sense of excitement for learning is one of the most rewarding aspects of working with the Half Moon. Each year the ship re-creates Henry Hudson's 1609 voyage up the river that now bears his name. Life on the replica ship is much like the original – except the crew is comprised of middle school students.



These student programs are called Voyages of Discovery. Sailing from lower New York Harbor to Albany, the student crew handles sail, steers, weighs anchor, and stands night watch. In addition, each student completes a research project in history and science while aboard ship. Aboard the Half Moon, they discover themselves, as well as the world around them, through practical, hands-on learning in history and science, geography and writing, math and art.

The New Netherland Museum has for several years extended their effort toward education by publishing a well-received lineup of two comprehensive interdisciplinary curriculums for the 4th and 7th grades. This year they are offering packages that include a curriculum plus enough posters for each student in the class.

The Half Moon's ship-board website may be found at [www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us](http://www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us). Official posters, postcards and school curriculum packages are available at <http://www.jamesdouglasgallery.com>.

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William T. (Chip) Reynolds  
Director, New Netherland Museum  
Captain, Replica Ship Half Moon  
P.O. Box 10609  
Albany, NY 12201  
518.443.1609 voice  
914.433.9747 ship's phone  
518.432.4516 facsimile  
[wtr@halfmoon.mus.ny.us](mailto:wtr@halfmoon.mus.ny.us)

James Douglas Hiller  
Owner, James Douglas Gallery  
22 Railroad Avenue  
Montgomery, NY 12549  
845.978.1371 voice  
[jdhiller@jamesdouglasgallery.com](mailto:jdhiller@jamesdouglasgallery.com)

Mike Jaroszko  
Artist  
845.457.9881 voice  
[mjaroszko@hotmail.com](mailto:mjaroszko@hotmail.com)

Links:

High-res poster image for fair use publication <http://www.jamesdouglasgallery.com/PosterLg.jpg>

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On-line copy of this press release <http://www.jamesdouglasgallery.com/release.pdf>

Schedule of appearances for the Half Moon [www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us/schedule/2009schedule.htm](http://www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us/schedule/2009schedule.htm)

More info on Voyages of Discovery program [www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us/livinghistory.htm](http://www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us/livinghistory.htm)

Historical facts about the Half Moon <http://www.timesunion.com/halfmoon/facts.htm>

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