

Mr. George B. Delano  
521 Buffer Drive,  
Virginia Beach VA 23461  
USA

130 CL

Nr.

19-3-1990

Bericht op schrijven van

Onderwerp: Marie Mahieu/Philippe de Lannoy

, 9-4-1990

LEIDEN

Boisotkade 2 A

2311 PZ Leiden

Tel. 071 - 12 01 91

Giro 19 42 76

Dear Sir,

In reply to your above mentioned letter to the VVV, which handed it to the Municipal Record Office for attention, I have to inform you as follows:

The reason you ask for information about Marie Mahieu, Jean de Lannoy and their son Philippe de Lannoy, is undoubtedly the fact that this Philippe de Lannoy is the ancestor of your American Delano-family.

To answer your letter, it is necessary to begin with the place where, nowadays, the portrait is hanging you hope to see during your visit to Leiden in May: The Jan Pesijnhof (an almshouse) in the Kloksteeg, near the Pieterskerk (= St. Peters Church).

Unfortunately I have to tell you that the person, represented on this painting, is NOT Marie Mahieu, the mother of Philippe de Lannoy, but Marie de Lannoy, wife of Jan Pesijn, the founder of the Jan Pesijnhof.

First a few data on the founders of the Jan Pesijnhof, as can be found in the Municipal Record Office:

Jan Besijn or Pesijn married Marie de Lannoy (or: de la No) in Leiden, in the Walloon Church, the 17th of February 1636. The bridegroom came from Wallonia and she came from Bondu in Artois (North of France). Before their marriage they respectively lived at the Oude Singel (a canal) and in the St. Ursulasteeg (an alley), but never in the Kloksteeg, where the almshouse is situated.

They only had one child: Marie, who died in May 1652, when she was 14 years old. As they had no descendants, they found an almshouse by their will, which came into effect when the widow died in November 1680, living, at that time, at the St. Jacobsgracht (a canal). She was buried in St. Peter's Church in the week of 23-30 November.

The building of the almshouse in the Kloksteeg was finished in 1683. It is merely by chance that the house of John Robinson, the spiritual leader and minister of the Pilgrim Fathers, had stood on this same spot. Many people try and have tried to find and construct a connection between the couple Jan Pesijn/Marie de Lannoy and the Pilgrim Fathers: a connection that, in fact, does not exist at all.

A few data on the parents of Philippe de Lannoy:

This couple married in 1596. The notice of their marriage, in Judicial Archives nr. 89, vol.C., folio 142, is reading (in english translation):  
January 13. 1596:



"Jan Lano, unmarried, from Lille (N. France) accompanied by Jane Mahieu, her mother and Anthonette Morth, her acquaintance".

Since the baptismal registers of the Walloon Church begin in the year 1599, only two children of the above couple have been registered:

Jenne, baptized on May 6th, 1601.

Philippe, baptized November 6th, 1603.

Jan Lano/Jean de Lannoy died between November 1603 and February 1605, for his widow remarried on March 6th 1605 with the woolcomber Robert Mannoo, widower of Simone Pachte (notice of marriage on Febr. 18th in Judicial Archives nr. 89, Vol.F., fol. 20).

From the above data I hope it will become clear to you that Marie Mahieu and Marie de Lannoy (the person on the painting) can not be the same woman. It is also impossible for Marie Mahieu to have found the Jan Pesijnhof, because:

- The Jan Pesijnhof was built between 1680 and 1683.

- At that time Marie Mahieu had been dead for more than 50 years.

- At that time it also was more than 60 years ago that the Pilgrims left Leiden.

Lano/de la No/de Lannoy was a very common name in 17th century Leiden, where many textile-workers, coming from Flanders and the North of France, were working in cloth-industry. Although Marie de Lannoy (wife of Jan Pesijn) and Philippe de Lannoy and his father Jean have the same family-name, investigations done by co-operators of the Municipal Record Office did not manage to find any proof of a familyconnection between Marie and both men.

These are the facts and unless they have been announced to the writer, much of the misunderstanding in this case has been caused by Mr. Daniel W. Delano jr.'s book: "Franklin Roosevelt and the Delano Influence", 1946.

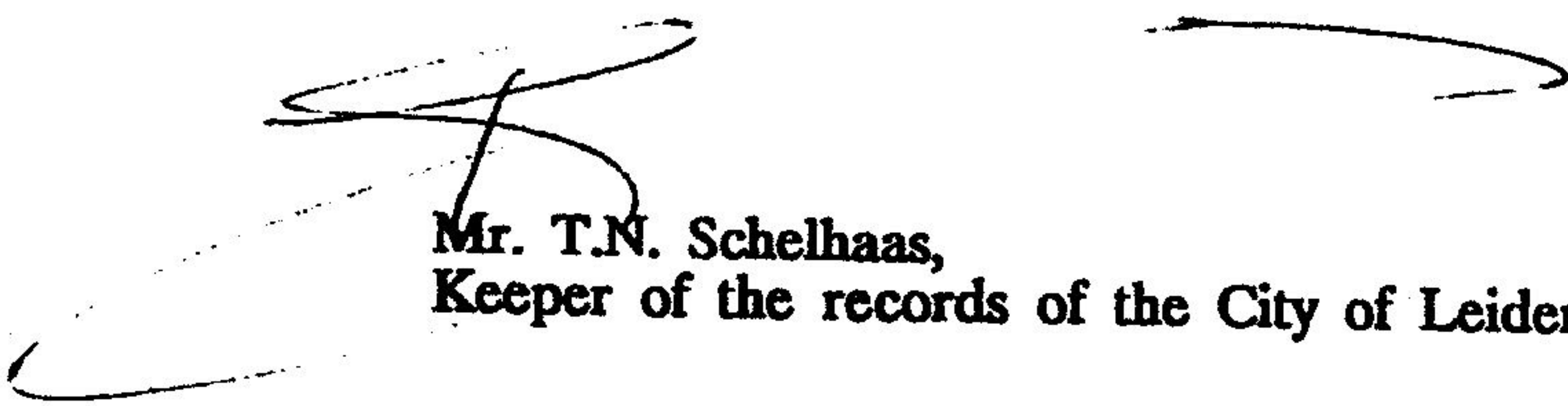
This book, of which we have a copy in our library, contains a great number of mistakes, as far as I can see especially in Book I, chapter I ("Whence came the Delanos?"). Unfortunately this book is the main (if not the only) source from which most people have their information about the history of the Delanos in the period before Philippe de Lannoy's coming to America.

The fact remains that Philippe de Lannoy is one of our ancestors and that he was baptized in the Walloon Church. This church still exists at the Breestraat. In the map of Leiden you find as an enclosure in this letter, it is marked \*1. The Jan Pesijnhof in the Kloksteeg is marked \*2.

If you are interested in the life of the Pilgrims in Leiden between 1609-1620, you can visit the Leiden Pilgrim Collection, situated Vliet 45 and marked \*3.

The cost of the above research amounts to Hfl. 40,- or \$ 20,-. You can pay this by money order or cheque, on the name of: Gemeentearchief, Boisotkade 2A, 2311 PZ Leiden.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. T.N. Schelhaas,  
Keeper of the records of the City of Leiden.