

WASHINGTON RARE BOOK GROUP

P.O. Box 1851

Silver Spring, Maryland USA 20915

The WASHINGTON RARE BOOK GROUP

invites you to join us for a lecture by

Blanche Ebeling-Koning, Ph.D., on

**“Images from *History of the eight-year governorship of
Count Johan Maurits of Nassau-Siegen in Brazil (1636-1644)*”**

at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2009,

in the Timothy C. May Gallery, Mullen Library,

The Catholic University of America, Washington DC

We are delighted to join with the Oliveira Lima Library at The Catholic University of America for a lecture by Blanche Ebeling-Koning, PhD., on an early, beautifully illustrated narrative about Brazil: Caspar Van Baerle's *Rerum per octennium in Brasilia...sub praefectura illustrissimi comitis I. Mauritii, Nassoviae...historia* (History of the eight-year governorship of Count Johan Maurits of Nassau-Siegen in Brazil), published in Amsterdam by Johan Blaeu in 1647.

As everyone will remember, Blanche is an active member of the Washington Rare Book Group and served as our President for several years. She has had a distinguished career, beginning with a doctorate in classical and medieval Latin from Columbia University, where she also obtained a library degree. She worked for several years as an Acquisitions Bibliographer at Harvard's Houghton Library and subsequently served as Curator and Head of the Rare Books & Literary Manuscripts Dept. at the University of Maryland. From there she turned to rare-book cataloging, specializing in 16th-18th-century imprints in European languages at the John Carter Brown Library, the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, the U.S. Naval Observatory, and the Oliveira Lima Library at The Catholic University.

As an independent scholar for the past several years, Blanche has been translating for publication Van Baerle's account of Count Johan Maurits of Nassau's years in the Dutch colony of Brazil. Named governor of Brazil by the Dutch West India Company in 1637, Johan Maurits (1604-1679) expanded Dutch control of the region, established religious tolerance in governmental and social affairs, supported the study of the natural sciences in Brazil, and raised splendid public buildings and gardens in his capitol city Recife. Van Baerle's *History...* is quite rare, most of the copies having been consumed by a fire in the publisher's warehouses; Blanche has been working with the copy held at

Catholic's Oliveira Lima Library.

The Mullen Library at The Catholic University of America is at 620 Michigan Ave. NE, near the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. To accommodate guests for the lecture, the campus police will relax parking rules in the vicinity of the Library from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The included areas are the immediate peripheries of Mullen Library and the two buildings facing it, McGivney Hall and Shahan Hall; the Cardinal Hall parking lot across the street from Mullen on the south; and the street along the east side of the Basilica/Shrine, which has metered as well as non-metered spaces. See the campus map at <http://welcome.cua.edu/CUAMap.pdf>. The University is also served by the Metro Red line (Brookland / CUA station); see http://www.wmata.com/rail/station_detail.cfm?station_id=27 for directions.

There is no charge for the lecture, which will be followed by a reception. If you have any questions, please call Maria Leal at leal@cua.edu or phone (202) 319-5059. (Please note that the University and the Oliveira Lima Library will be closed April 9-13 for the Easter holidays.)

We hope you'll join us on the 15th!

Leslie Overstreet, President, WRBG