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To Europeans, land was something that could be bought, sold, and owned by an individual. Native people did not see land this way. Because of this, Native groups would exchange land, but in their minds had only given permission to use the lands. When Native people exchanged Manhattan with the Dutch, they did not give up their right to live on it. Native people probably meant to allow the Dutch to use the land while they continued to live on it.

Previously published in *De Halve Maen* 72, no. 4 (Winter 1999): 75–83, reprinted in Margriet Lacy, ed., *A Beautiful and Fruitful Place: Selected Rensselaerswijck Papers*, vol. 3 (Albany: New Netherland Institute, 2013): 41–48

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