



New Netherland Institute Report to the Members

From the President

This impressive review of the Institute's activities reflects the same energy, foresight, focus, and hope that propelled us three years ago to broaden our community outreach and to initiate the four 2009 projects now enjoying completion. The implicit optimism is founded on the proven record of the Institute's board and staff, generous with their talent and loyalty, and of our members and supporters, all now needed more than ever to carry us into a new period of success.

Charles W. Wendell, PhD

Future of the New Netherland Project

With 30 years of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities coming to an end in 2010, the New Netherland Project is ready to move into a new era of development. Dr. Charles T. Gehring, director of the New Netherland Project, estimates it will take an additional twenty years with two full-time editors/translators to complete the work on the remaining forty percent of the New Netherland records. In addition to the official archives of New Netherland being translated by Dr. Gehring and Dr. Janny Venema, there remains a repository of private correspondence, such as the Van Rensselaer Papers, that have yet to be transcribed, translated, and edited. The Board of Trustees of the New Netherland Institute seeks a public-private partnership to complete, within the next two decades, the translation and publication of all known early colonial Dutch documents relating to New Netherland, public and private, in United States repositories relating to New Netherland.

Talks are underway with New Netherland Project staff, the New Netherland Institute, the New York State Education Department, the Dutch govern-

ment, and other interested parties to establish and fund a New Netherland Research Center (NNRC).

Together with the State Library, the New York State Archives and the State Museum have the most comprehensive collection of documents, books, and artifacts relating to New Netherland. In addition to continuing the translation project, NNRC will facilitate making the transcriptions of the early Dutch records available online. The Center will also support some of the purposes, functions, and activities of the New Netherland Institute, expand New Netherland information into new formats, and perform other activities related to Dutch history in colonial America.

31st Annual Rensselaerswijck Seminar

The Seminar was held on September 13. An international team of scholars explored the theme of "Neighbors in the NewWorld: New Netherland and New France" before an audience of well over one hundred, examined the relationship between the two nations in the NewWorld, and compared the way they carried out their plans to establish colonies in North America. José Antonio Brandão of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, opened with "An Unreasonable Offer: Iroquois Policy towards their Huron and Mahican Neighbors," with emphasis on the relationship between the government of New France and its Indian allies. James Bradley of ArchLink, Boston, MA, described the state of the region in his paper, "In Between Worlds: New Netherland and New France at Mid-Century" Conrad Heidenreich of York University, Ontario, Canada, analyzed Samuel Champlain's personality, revealing facts about Champlain's personal and professional life to examine "The Skirmish with the Mohawk on Lake Champlain: was Champlain a 'Trigger-Happy Thug' or 'Just Following Orders'?"

Willem Frijhoff of the Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, examined the interactions of various groups in "Jesuits, Calvinists, and Natives: Attitudes, Agency, and Encounters in the Early Christian Missions to the North." Introduced by Joyce Goodfriend of the University of Denver, CO, as the recipient of the 2008 Hendricks Manuscript Award, professor Frijhoff discussed his work, *Fulfilling God's Mission: The Two Worlds of Dominie Everardus Bogardus, 1607-1647*, for which he received the Hendricks Award. A DVD of the talks is available for sale from the office of the New Netherland Institute.

During the dinner following the seminar Consul General H. Gajus Scheltema of the Dutch Consulate in New York City received the New Netherland Institute's grateful recognition for the Consulate's major sponsorship of the Seminar. Mr. Scheltema spoke about the role of the Dutch government in supporting the quadricentennial projects of the New Netherland Institute and other organizations up and down the Hudson River, in the area formerly known as New Netherland.

Academic support through the Doris G. Quinn Foundation

Four applications were received for the Quinn Fellowship. The applications were reviewed by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and the director of the New Netherland Project. However, the winning applicant simultaneously received a full year's scholarship in London and was obliged to turn down the Fellowship. No other applicant was deemed acceptable. The 2008 Quinn Archives Research Residency Award recipient is Andrea C. Mosterman, from Boston University. Her topic is "Sharing Spaces in a New World Environment: African-Dutch Contributions to North American Culture, 1626-1826." The Quinn Library Research Residency Award was not granted this year.

Additions to the corpus of material on New Netherland available from NNI's **Online shop**

- Thirty papers, given at *From De Halve Maen to KLM: Four Hundred Years of Dutch-American Exchange*, the joint conference of the American Association for Netherlandic Studies and the New Netherland Institute held in Albany, June 8-10, 2006, was published in June. This publication was supported in part by a generous donation of the Peck Stacpoole Foundation.

- Adriaen van der Donck's *Description of New Netherland* in the new Goedhuys translation, updated by Dr. Charles T. Gehring and Dr. William A. Starna, was published by the University of Nebraska Press.

- *Dutch Renaissance: The Story of the New Netherland Project* is a booklet by Peter A. Douglas in the series *Annals of New Netherland*, a publication series developed by the New Netherland Institute, formerly Friends of New Netherland, to enhance awareness of the Dutch history of colonial America. *Dutch Renaissance* recounts the story of the New Netherland Project, established in 1974, to transcribe, translate, and publish the official records of the Dutch West India Company in the seventeenth-century colony of New Netherland in America.

Additions to the corpus of translated material on New Netherland to be published:

- *Fort Orange Records 1652-1667*: "The Big Book" scheduled for publication in the spring of 2009 by Syracuse University Press.

- Dr. Janny Venema continues work on her book about Kiliaen van Rensselaer, to be read by Willem Frijhoff and to be edited by James Peltz of SUNY Press.

- Dr. Gehring and Dr. Venema continue their translation of volume 8, *Council Minutes 1657-1658*, and are simultaneously working on volume 13, *Correspondence, 1660-1661*.

- Gary Dunham, the new director of SUNY Press, visited the NNP to discuss future publications with Dr. Gehring and Dr. Venema. The New Netherland

Documents, known also as the Huntington manuscripts and as the Van Rappard Documents, will be reprinted. Another text under consideration is the extraction of Stokes' chronology for publication as a separate volume.

- Dr. Martha D. Shattuck is continuing her work editing the "New Netherland Papers," also known as the "Bontemantel Papers," held at the New York Public Library. The collection consists of about thirty-five documents, twelve of which are summarized in Stokes' Iconography. Dr. Shattuck's introduction will provide a historical background for their content. An index and a glossary will make such information suitable for publication by NNI.

U pdate on Institute Activities — **2009 Project**

- *Light on New Netherland*, a traveling exhibit consisting of 14 panels, which introduces adults and children to important, but not well-known aspects of American history and culture. It is accompanied by a 15-minute version of the video, *Uncovering America's Forgotten Colony: the New Netherland Project*. The exhibit opened successfully to positive reviews on December 8th at the NYS Museum, where it remained until February 8, 2009. It will be at the Museum of Connecticut History, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, CT, from February 14 - April 30, 2009, and will travel to other locations in New York, Delaware, Michigan, and Washington, D.C.

- *Uncovering America's Forgotten Colony: the New Netherland Project* a documentary DVD about the New Netherland Project, where more than 18 volumes of the official archives of New Netherland have been transcribed, translated, and published to date. The thirty-minute video provides historical background about New Netherland, explains the importance of using documentary evidence, makes clear why the New Netherland documents are unique and important, relates the journey the documents took from 1674 to the present, gives examples of the fascinating information found in these early records, and dispels so

misinterpretations of the Dutch in sources such as literature, history books, and social history. Containing interviews with Dr. Gehring and Dr. Venema, respectively the Director and Assistant Director of the New Netherland Project, the video was produced by Mogul One Production, LLC, for showing on PBS and commercial stations statewide and beyond. A shorter version accompanies the traveling exhibit.

- *Explorers, Fortunes, and Love Letters: A Window on New Netherland*: a collection of twelve essays in praise of New Netherland designed to appeal to a general audience and scholars alike. This text, with an introduction by its editor Dr. Martha D. Shattuck, and an opening chapter by Russell Shorto, author of *The Island at the Center of the World: the Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan & the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America*, will be published by Mount Ida Press, Albany, NY, in March 2009.

- *Amsterdam/New Amsterdam: the Worlds of Henry Hudson*, an exhibit being developed by the Museum of the City of New York in co-sponsorship with the New Netherland Institute. This co-sponsorship includes the assistance of Dr. Charles Gehring and support with funding and content. This exhibit is scheduled to open on April 4, 2009. For further information,

This ambitious 2009 Project is budgeted at \$400,000. Fundraising efforts, led by Jippe Hiemstra, trustee of the New Netherland Institute, have yielded major contributions from the NNI Board of trustees, individuals, local foundations including the Bender Family Foundation, the William G Broughton Family Foundation, the Netherland-America Foundation, the Wright Family Foundation, the Holland Society of New York, Dutch-American companies such as Philips and Rabobank, Dutch foundations, and the Dutch government. Several of these Dutch-American companies and American and Dutch foundations have agreed to be part of an Honorary Committee. James F. Sefcik is the 2009 Project coordinator and Robert E. Mulligan curated the panel exhibit.

Other Activities

- Elisabeth Paling Funk is completing the editorial work on talks from Rensselaerswijck Seminars XI – XX. Once that work is completed, the full text of these talks will be available on our website.

- Work continues on the first four volumes of the *New York Colonial Documents* (Van Laer translations), now out of print, and the *Curaçao Papers*. Volunteer Celia Diamond completed correcting the scanning errors and typos in the first volume, and is working on the second volume. The text will be updated and corrected by Dr. Gehring and Dr. Venema. When completed, it will be available on our website and will be searchable and printable. Rebecca Chandra is correcting the scanned Dutch text of the *Curaçao Papers*.

- Trustee Update — we note with regret the resignation of Fred M. Tibbitts, Jr., a trustee of long standing. As a global beverage merchant Fred has been the NNI's most vocal overseas ambassador especially to countries in the Far East such as China and Thailand. As a trustee of the Holland Society Fred helped to assure its continued financial support of the NNP. However, Fred's business is now based in Bangkok, which makes it difficult to attend to NNI business.

It was, however, our good fortune to have Karen S. Hartgen, founder and director of Hartgen Archeological Associates the northeast's leader in cultural resource management since 1973 with a track record of over 4,000 successfully completed cultural resource studies, agree to have her name placed in nomination for the Board. In addition, Carole F. Huxley also agreed to serve on the Board. Carole spent her entire career in education, focused largely on the educational resources found beyond the formal classroom. She recently retired from 24 years as the Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education in the New York State Education Department, with responsibility for the New York State

Library, State Archives, State Museum and aid to libraries, records repositories, and public broadcasting statewide.

Communication with NNI membership and general public worldwide

- The Web site is continually revised and updated by our web team, Howard and Elisabeth Funk.

A new page relating to genealogical research has been added, and the complete 2009 committee list is now available on the NNI Board of Trustees page.

- NNI members continue to receive the quarterly newsletter *De Nieuw Nederlanse Mercurius* in hard copy. Issues from 1985 to the present have been scanned and the full text is available on the website.

- NEWMARC-L — NNI's announcement and information e-mail list, which provides information about New Netherland-related events, activities, conferences, and research, now has over 670 subscribers. This service is available to anyone interested in the Dutch in the Atlantic world. If you have programs or information you would like to share with a wider audience, please email the information to mdouglas@mail.nysed.gov.

[Subscribe to this list.](#)

- [E-Discussion Group](#) — NNI's members-only facility for the discussion of topics broadly related to New Netherland including New Netherland, history, people, genealogy, language, and translations, is a user-friendly service and an excellent way to communicate with others on topics relating to New Netherland.

Please direct questions or comments on this report or on the activities of the NNI to Marilyn E. Douglas, NNI/NNP Coordinator, New Netherland Institute, at 518-408-1212 or by email at mdouglas@mail.nysed.gov