



The 2010 Annual Report to the Members

It's a banner year for the New Netherland Research Center!

The year 2010 will go down as a banner year for the New Netherland Institute. Not only did the New Netherland Project grow to become the New Netherland Research Center, but on November 3 the ribbon was cut to open the doorway to the New Netherland Research Center room, a central place in which to study maps and the role of the Dutch in colonial America.

When the ceremonial ribbon was cut by **Charles Th. Gehring, Ph.D.**, director of the center (NNRC), those taking part in the event included trustees of the New Netherland Institute (NNI), led by **Charles W. Wendell, Ph.D.**, president and chairman of the NNI board of trustees, as well as **Jeffrey Cannell**, Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education of the New York State Office of Cultural Education (OCE), who share the responsibility for the center and its direction.

Other participating directors within OCE include **Loretta Ebert**, the State Library, **Christine Ward**, the State Archives; **Clifford Siegfried, Ph.D.**, the State Museum; and **Liz Hood**, the Office of Educational Television/Public Broadcasting.

Roelof Hol, program manager of the National Archives of the Netherlands, represented his government and its interest in its former colonies.

The landmark organization, the first of its kind, has been made possible by the contribution from the government of The Netherlands in September 2009, to be given over a period of three years. The grant of €200,000, some \$250,000, was an-

nounced when the **Crown Prince of Orange, Willem Alexander**, and **Princess Maxima** visited Albany in 2009.

A condition of the grant, however, is that it must be matched. The NNI has the responsibility for administering the grant, and it also must raise the matching funds.

"This gives researchers a nice room where everything they need is located in one place," said Gehring in an interview by **Paul Grondahl** published in the Times Union, Albany. "It gives us a visual presence in the library. I'm excited, even though it took more than 30 years."

Cannell commented, "This research center is a beacon that will help us attract and grow a new generation of scholars."

For the first time, members of the public have access to materials without needing an appointment to go to the NNRC offices.

Like all the seventh floor of the New York State Library (NYSL) in Albany, the NNRC reading room provides computer connections and wi-fi. Nearby are public computers with Internet connections, as well as a reference desk staffed by research librarians.

Historic maps and paintings by **Len Tantillo**, history artist, decorate the area, enriching our understanding of the New Netherland Colony and its influence.



See page 3 for the President's Message from Charles W. Wendell with his thoughts about this landmark year and what it means to the New Netherland Institute.

NNI and NNRC awards make new studies possible

A new group of award recipients will carry on their research, thanks to The New Netherland Institute and the New Netherland Research Center, which begin the year 2011 with the promise of new research by the students of history. For more information about the awards, see the institute's website, [http://www.nnp.org/nni/Research & Education](http://www.nnp.org/nni/Research%20&%20Education).

Quinn Library Research Residency Award

Chelsea Teale, a graduate student at Pennsylvania State University, is the recipient of the 2010 Quinn Library Research Residency Award. Her dissertation topic is the colonial Dutch perception and management of wetlands on western Long Island and the Hudson valley.

The award is for \$2,500, the cost of which the Library and NNI share equally.

Alice P. Kenney Award

Ralph DeGroff was given the 2010 Kenney Award in recognition of the DeGroff Family's support of the New Netherland Project.

The annual prize of \$1,000 goes to an individual or group which has made a significant contribution to colonial Dutch studies by research, teaching, writing or speaking or in other ways.

The Annual Hendricks Award

The Hendricks Award committee chose **Dirk Mouw** as the 2010 winner for his dissertation "Moederkerk and Vaderland: Religion and Ethnic Identity in the Middle Colonies, 1690-1772."

The award of \$5,000 for a book-length manuscript relating to any aspect of the Dutch colonial experience in North America is endowed by **Dr. Andrew A. Hendricks** of Lumberton, N.C., a descendant of the colonial Dutch.

NNRC introduces award program

The NNRC recently announced the creation of a Senior Scholar in Residence program and two Student Scholar Research Grants, each for work to be performed in 2011.

The Senior Scholar Award of \$30,000 has been given to **Eric Ruijsenaars** of the Netherlands. A graduate of Leiden University, he is a historian and genealogist whose focus will be Abraham Staats, a prominent New Netherlander. The award is available for pre- and post-doctoral students, including independent, non-university-affiliated persons.

NNRC grant recipients are named

An NNRC Student Scholar Research Grant of \$5,000 has been given to two graduate students, **Alena Buis** of Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, and **Deborah Hamer** of Columbia University, New York, both Ph.D. candidates.

Buis will examine wills, letters, inventories and other documents in the New York State Library and Archives in Albany in her study of domestic interiors and objects.

Hamer's research focuses on marriage, policies and practices in the Dutch colonies of the 17th century.



The Annual Report is published by the New Netherland Institute to share news of the Institute and the New Netherland Research Center.

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The mission of publishing the research continues

The opening of the NNRC was the occasion to introduce a book that continues the commitment to publishing research. **Janny Venema, Ph.D.**, assistant director of the New Netherland Research Center, spoke about the subject of her latest book, “Kiliaen Van Rensselaer (1586-1643): Designing a New World.” Van Rensselaer was one of the founding directors of the Dutch West India Company and a leading figure in the establishment of the New Netherland Colony.

Venema places him in the context of the early 1600s, when the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands was at war with Spain.

Although he never actually set foot in the New World, his patroonship, Rensselaerswijck, encompassed much of what is now New York State's capital district and survived as a legal entity until the 1840s.

As the author examines the time and place in which Kiliaen van Rensselaer lived, she gives insight into the powerful role he played in helping to establish a Dutch presence in the New World. 

“A Beautiful and Fruitful Place” is now available in print

“A Beautiful and Fruitful Place,” Volume 2, contains a collection of Rensselaerswijck Seminar Papers from 1988 to 1997 and is available to order in hard cover and paperback from SUNY Press.

Featuring New Netherland's distinctive regional history as well as the colony's many relationships with Europe and the 17th-century Atlantic world, these cogent and informative papers are indispensable to a better understanding of New Netherland life and legacy.

Editors of the book are **Elisabeth Paling Funk, Ph.D.**, and **Martha Dickinson Shattuck, Ph.D.**, of the New Netherland Institute. 

A message from the President

This is an indeed an exciting year, with the long-planned goal of a research center achieved. Members of the New Netherland Institute take justifiable pride in our role in promoting and supporting the maturation of the Dutch Translation Project through the stage of the New Netherland Project to the landmark establishment of the New Netherland Research Center in the NYS Library.

What does that step mean to us?

We have the privilege of administering the funds bestowed upon the center, modestly claiming a portion of the credit for our tenacity in pursuing the dream.

We have the challenge of raising the required matching funds to validate the Dutch government's pledge.

Embellishing the challenge is the promise of the future. We all at the Institute are energized by the idea that the entity to which we are devoted will develop as a model of rigorous research for counterparts in other nations to adopt.

The Institute continues on course. We go on to more support for scholars, to publications, to events and, yes, to fundraising and recruiting others we know would like to join us.

Well done! Quality pays: let's continue to prove it!

Charles W. Wendell

Plans for 2011 events

The New Netherland Institute calendar for 2011 takes us to the north and south extremes of the New Netherland Colony. **The 2011 Annual Meeting** will be in Schenectady May 21 at the Stockade Inn, located in the Stockade Historic District of the host city.

The 34th New Netherland Seminar will be in Delaware in mid-September, at the southern end of the colony's borders. The last time the NNI focused on the area was 1988. 

Mutual Cultural Heritage organization meets in Albany to work out protocols for communications

Representatives of former Dutch colonies, including New York, were in Albany for the days preceding the opening of the New Netherland Research Center to convene as a Mutual Cultural Heritage organization. Over the years, the Netherlands has developed close ties with a number of countries. The Dutch government has developed a policy on shared cultural heritage in relation to eight priority countries: Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Surinam. To implement this policy the Dutch government has developed a framework and allocated financial means.

At the meeting in Albany, an important undertaking was to develop protocols for the MCH website, which is to be the vehicle for distributing digitized documents from the former Dutch colonies. The model will be that of the New York State Archives, adapted by the member nations of the MCH.

Representatives of the New Netherland Institute attended as observers, including **Charles W. Wendell** and **William Greer**. 

Education is part of the mission

The Education Committee of the New Netherland Institute continues to increase awareness of New Netherland's contribution to New York State, especially by supplying curriculum design elements.

Some of the institute's educational publications from earlier years are being scanned and will be available online as the publication list grows. A printed seventh-grade curriculum guide is available in limited quantity.

The NNI acts as a clearinghouse for educational materials treating the early history of the New Netherland Colony and its Dutch settlers. Educators are invited to contribute their suggestions to a bibliography posted on the institute's website.

Finding New Netherland ancestors

A strong interest in family history brings many people to join the New Netherland Institute. Genealogy questions are handed on to a board member when inquiries are received.

Recent queries include these challenges:

- Making a family's connection back to Philippe Wiltse of New Netherland.
- Finding the origins of a Revolutionary War soldier from a Palatine family. This project required the unique resources of the NNRC to decipher the family records.

As part of NNI's education strand, **Theodore P. Wright Jr., Ph.D.**, and **Nancy Johnsen Curran** gave talks during 2010 on genealogy topics.

Wright gave a presentation as part of the New York State Library's noontime series to an enthusiastic audience learning how to do research about New Netherland ancestors.

Curran spoke to the Dutch Settlers Society of Albany, illustrating Internet searching as well as basic methods and more specific resources, such as naming conventions, wills and deeds and resources at the NYS Library in Albany. 

What does that logo mean, anyway?

GWC was the logo of the West India Company, often branded into shipping containers to identify ownership. The letters stand for *Geoctroyeerde Westindische Compagnie*, Chartered West India Company. 

The West India Company was a trading and colonizing company chartered by the States-General of the Dutch republic in 1621 and organized in 1623. Through its agency New Netherland was founded.

The New Netherland Institute has adopted the logo as our own.

Digital publication is added to NNI website: the Register of the Provincial Secretary

A historic work that has long been out of print and inaccessible to researchers is now available to the public on the institute website. The NNI and the NNRC have made available this seminal historic work, the first volume of the Register of the Provincial Secretary. The Provincial Secretary was responsible for recording the proceedings of the high council and maintaining these archives for future reference.

In the 19th century, **E. B. O’Callaghan**, archivist of the state of New York, decided that the Dutch records could be organized more logically. His “improvement” was to tear the books apart and rearrange the documents according to genre. The original 49 books became 23 volumes, each containing a specific type of document.

Some years later another translator, **A. J. F. van Laer**, librarian and archivist of New York State, judged O’Callaghan’s work to be unreliable and undertook a new translation.

In spite of the fire

By 1911 Van Laer had completed translation of the first volume. However, the translation and the original records were lying on his desk when a disastrous fire broke out in the State Library a hundred years ago in March 1911. Van Laer’s work was destroyed, together with the Dutch originals.

All that remains of Dutch originals is transcription of documents 95-143, which Van Laer happened to have at his house.

To continue his projected new translation, Van Laer had to use the surviving O’Callaghan translation. However, as the Dutch originals were still fresh in his mind, he was able to correct O’Callaghan’s translation in extensive footnotes.

Van Laer eventually also translated the next three volumes (“Registers” for 1642-47 and 1648-57, and “Council Minutes” for 1638-49) as arranged by O’Callaghan. These were not published until 1973, several years after his death in 1955.

Minor changes only have been made to the text and to Van Laer’s notes, and corrections are incor-

porated according to Van Laer’s notations. Future volumes will consist of scans of the original documents, transcriptions of the Dutch, and translations with annotations.

To learn more about accessing the publication and the extant transcriptions on the web, go to www.nnp.org/nnrc/Documents/vanLaer/index.html.

Projects in progress

Dr. Gehring, director of the NNRC, reports that projects underway at the center include:

- online publication of the New Netherland Papers of Hans Bontemantel, a director of the West India Company.
- conservation, transcription, translation and publication of the memorandum book of Antonie de Hooges, business manager of Rensselaerswijck. The entries between 1643 and 1648 contain details of some 64 business and other transactions in the Dutch settlement. The 49 double-sided leaves have been conserved and are being scanned.
- update of the Guide to Dutch Manuscripts Relating to New Netherland in United States Repositories, which Gehring completed 30 years ago.
- translation of Volume 8 of the Minutes 1656-1658.
- digitized publication of Volume II, Register of the Provincial Secretary 1642-1647.

Support comes from many sources to carry on the work

Many supporters play a part in raising funds for the New Netherland Institute's programs and responsibility. In 2010 the NNI successfully matched a \$97K grant from the State of the Netherlands through contributions from members and corporate and foundation donors.

As a **membership organization**, the NNI enjoys a rising number of members, now at 432, of whom 60 are new members. There are also 58 honorary members.

Membership contributions are enhanced by matching gift programs offered by several corporations.

De Nieuw Nederlanse Mercurius newsletter is

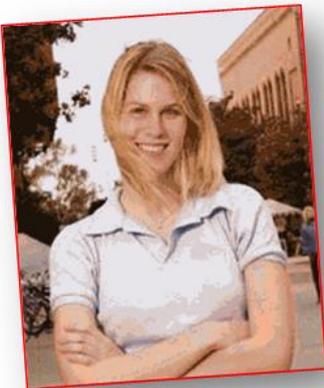
mailed to members. Editions from 1985 to the present are now available on the NNI website. It has been made more accessible by a new search tool.

Online subscribers to NEWMARC-L, the NNI's information list for members and the general public, number more than 830. 

Annika K. Martin joins the NNI board of trustees

The New Netherland Institute recently invited **Annika K. Martin, Esq.**, to join the board of trustees. She is an attorney with Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein in New York City, where she has worked on cases involving environmental, antitrust, copyright and consumer law.

Martin received a J.D. in 2004 from the Gould School of Law at the University of Southern California and a B.S.J. in 2001 from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.



The new NNI board member lives in the Financial District in Manhattan, where the streets are still laid out as they were when the city was called New Amsterdam.

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