Welcome and thank you

With our 2018 efforts underway, we want to take this opportunity to thank our generous benefactors for your 2017 year-end gifts and for your enthusiastic and consistent support. We’d also like to tell you about some of our plans for 2018.

For over three decades we have worked alongside the New Netherland Research Center (formerly the New Netherland Project) to promote not only the history of New Netherland but also a historical literacy strongly rooted in its records. These efforts will continue to bear fruit over the next few years with the publication of volumes eight, thirteen, and fourteen in the New Netherland Documents series.

We also continue to expand and seek out new opportunities in all areas of public outreach. The beginning of this year has seen the completion of a key document-based educational web resource, a digital exhibit on American Indian-Dutch relations, and a much-anticipated publication agreement with Cornell University Press. As I write, we are wrapping up the planning of our third event ‘on the road’ in as many summers, which will be held on the 1st and 2nd of June at the Old Stone House in Brooklyn. Please keep an eye on our website for more details on the Brooklyn event and the rest of our programming.

As always, we look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

R.J. Jippe Hiemstra
Board President

Contents

Welcome .................... 1
Website ..................... 2
Events ....................... 2
Education ................... 3
Awards & Grants .......... 3
Who’s Who ................. 4

Highlights

- Publication agreement with Cornell University Press finalized
- Volume 8 in the New Netherland Documents series due out in mid-April
- A new printing of New Netherland in a Nutshell in paperback available now
Events

Our conferences and public programs continue to offer excellent opportunities for speakers and attendees. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events in 2018.

Annual Conference
Our 40th Annual Conference was held at the New York State Museum in September and was a great success. Eleven excellent speakers highlighted the role of women in New Netherland and early New York with a program that included talks on businesswomen, witches, cookbooks, and dissident women. A call for papers for our 41st Annual Conference this September in Albany is currently circulating. We welcome paper proposals on any aspect of New Netherland. We look forward to reading your submissions.

The Dutch in Connecticut
In June we brought New Netherland back to Hartford with “The Dutch in Connecticut: Exploring New Netherland’s Fresh River,” a program that highlighted the Dutch presence on New Netherland’s Fresh (Connecticut) River. The event included talks by Connecticut State Historian Walter Woodward and Lucianne Lavin, Director of Research and Collections at the Institute for American Indian Studies. We are currently planning a similar event for June 1st and 2nd 2018 at the Old Stone House in Brooklyn.

“For over three decades we have worked alongside the New Netherland Research Center ... to promote not only the history of New Netherland but also a historical literacy strongly rooted in its records.”

Cornell University Press agreement

We will now work with Cornell University Press to publish books on New Netherland and its legacy, a partnership that promises to bring new energy to an already-flourishing field.

The two institutions will collaborate in identifying promising book projects, will share expertise in the vetting and development of the works, and will pool financial resources to ensure reasonable list prices and high production values.

Collaboration on potential projects will begin this spring.

Website

Recent additions

“The Dutch Among the Natives: American Indian-Dutch Relations, 1609–1664,” a digital exhibit by Dr. William Starna that reflects something of the shared experiences that took place between the Dutch and the original inhabitants of the region that would be called New Netherland.

“New York’s Colonial Dutch History: An Education Resource from the New York State Archives,” an education resource created by the New York State Archives—with funding from the Dutch Consulate and support from NNI—to provide teachers with document sets and lesson plans highlighting New York’s Dutch colonial history. See more under Education.

Not to be missed

With dozens of translations, transcriptions, and finding aids not available elsewhere, our Online Publications page is an unapparelled resource for researching New Netherland.

We continue to record episodes of our “New Netherland Praatjes” podcast, a series of chats with historians, archaeologists, and other experts on New Netherland and the world of the 17th-century Dutch.

An overhaul of our New Netherland bibliography is entering its final stage. Expect to see the new and improved version by the end of the summer.
Education

Our education programs range from primary, with lesson plans for the 4th and 7th grades, to graduate, with our Emerging Scholars, a group of promising graduate students and recent PhDs studying New Netherland.

In January of this year at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, a group of our Emerging Scholars participated in the panel "Women and the Construction of Racial Identity in Global Dutch Communities in the 17th and 18th Centuries." Another group of Emerging Scholars is set for a panel at the Annual Conference of the Omohundro Institute this June in Williamsburg, Virginia.

New on our website is "New York's Colonial Dutch History: An Education Resource from the New York State Archives," which explores both the global nature of the Dutch colonial experience and life in New Netherland, specifically Rensselaerswijck, Beverwijck, and Fort Orange. The resource includes, among others, lessons on work, governance, and trade in the colony. Other lesson plans on our site are currently under revision and are scheduled to be posted early next year.

Awards & Grants

Firth Fabend was awarded the 2017 Alice P. Kenney Award for her key contributions to our growing knowledge of New Netherland.

The 2017 Hendricks Award was awarded to Kenneth Shefsiek for his 2017 book Set in Stone: Creating and Commemorating a Hudson Valley Culture.

The 2017 Clague and Carol Van Slyke Article Prize was awarded to Lou Roper for his article “The Fall of New Netherland and Seventeenth-Century Anglo-American Imperial Formation, 1654–1676.”

Amy Ransford was the recipient of the 2017 NNRC Student Scholar in Residence research grant. A Ph.D. candidate at Indiana University, Amy is researching European-Native American kinship and trade networks in colonial New Netherland/New York from European contact through the American Revolution.

Julie van den Hout was the recipient of the inaugural Charles W. Wendell Research Grant. Julie is researching ships that made port in New Netherland between 1609 and 1664.
For over thirty years, the New Netherland Institute (NNI) has helped cast light on America’s long-neglected Dutch roots. Created in 1986 as the Friends of the New Netherland Project, we have supported the transcription, translation, and publication of the 17th-century Dutch colonial records held by the New York State Library and State Archives. These records constitute the world’s largest collection of original documentation of the Dutch West India Company and its New World colonies. They represent an irreplaceable resource for researchers exploring this important chapter in American history, with its legacy of cultural traditions, and its qualities of tolerance, diversity, and entrepreneurship.

NNI relies heavily on its members to continue its work.

Who’s Who

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Images


Page 2: 40th Annual Conference program designed by 2K Design, with Woman feeding a cat by Gabriel Metsu, ca. 1661–64. Rijksmuseum.

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