



New Netherland Institute

2007 Annual Report to the Members

New Netherland Project Funding

Dark clouds are on the horizon. For the first time since 1978, when the New Netherland Project (NNP) received its initial three-year matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), it received only a one-year grant. This grant will run from February 2008 to the beginning of 2009, an important year, and includes \$50,000 to be matched by the New Netherland Institute (NNI). The sharp decline in NEH's funding of the New Netherland Project is part of a general trend and one that is affecting numerous other documentary editing projects, some of which have disappeared or are in the process of disappearing.

To complete the work on the remaining forty percent of the New Netherland records, Dr. Charles T. Gehring estimates it will take two full-time editors/translators an additional twenty years at an annual cost of \$150,000. To ensure that this annual expense is met, NNI has approached the New York State Education Department to support a request for \$3 million over the next twenty years for inclusion in the state budget. Loss of state funding halted A. J. F. van Laer's early 20th-century translations of the official New Netherland documents, a discontinuation that lasted until the New Netherland Project was established in 1974. Such disruptions have major consequences, including the loss of trained, knowledgeable staff. Consistent, adequate, and dependable funding will prevent a recurrence and is essential for the Project's work to continue until its mission is completed.

Further, in addition to the official archives of New Netherland being translated by Dr. Gehring and Dr. Janny Venema, a repository of private correspondence, such as the Van Rensselaer Papers, remains to be carefully transcribed, translated, and edited along the standards established by the New Netherland Project. An additional twenty years of work for a part-time editor/translator is required at an annual cost of \$50,000, or \$1 million in all.

The Consul General of the Netherlands in New York invited the President and Treasurer of NNI to discuss the future of Project funding. Under his auspices, Dr. Gehring also met with F.C.G.M. Timmermans (Minister for European Affairs) in

From the President

As one who is still adjusting to millennium, I am stunned to find myself in something called 2008 and surprised to be at the onset of my third year as your president. The reports that follow testify to the hard work and accomplishments of the Institute just in this past year, despite someone's dreaming on the fringes.

Outreach was one of the inspirations for becoming the New Netherland Institute (formerly Friends of New Netherland, but still just as friendly). The year's results have proven the wisdom of the move. The international presence of our Seminar's distinguished speakers, the enthusiastic attention extended by the Dutch Consul General and by the Dutch Government, the broadening access provided by our sophisticated web page, the continuing foundational, financial support and collaborations, the encouraging response for funding for our ambitious 2009 projects, all show that the Institute is becoming a respected player in the ever-widening area of New Netherland history and culture. We've been that for some time, but now the word is out!

To sustain the momentum, we need initiatives to make permanent the fruits of our 2009 projects (that year will come and go); we need fresh initiatives to extend our message and to build on our other successes. And, of course, we need money, lots and lots of money.

For such a productive 2007, thanks big time go out to the NNP for their persevering work, to the Institute's board for their energetic, hands-on commitment, to our much-overworked staff, to all our supporters and to you members. Where would we be without your loyalty? Spread the word. Let's double our membership for 2009! Why not? Our purposes are worthy and fun!

Charles W. Wendell

New York City regarding Dutch interest in and potential support for the NNP. The Consul General suggested that the Dutch government be formally approached for funding through the Centre for International Heritage Activities. The Board of NNI is now seeking a public-private partnership to complete the translation and publication of all known early colonial Dutch documents relating to New Netherland, public and private, in the United States, in the next two decades.

Partnership of the New Netherland Institute and Siena College

The goal of this partnership is to integrate the Institute's expertise and activities relating to the early Dutch history of colonial America and the Atlantic world with the College's academic programs and campus environment. To that end, the Institute continues to investigate the creation of a workshop for high school history teachers on the early Dutch colonial period in America, the establishment of a course on reading 17th-century Dutch, a collaborative arrangement to fund a visiting professor to teach a course on New Netherland, and NNP staff lecturing at Siena.

30th Rensselaerswijck Seminar and New Netherland Dinner

The Seminar, *The Truce, 1609 -1621: Time of Turmoil and Decision*, was held on September 15 at the Cultural Education Center (CEC) in Albany, followed by the New Netherland Dinner in the CEC's Terrace Gallery. Speakers at the Seminar included Joost Jonker (Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht), "A Tale of Two Revolutions:

Financial Parallels between the Dutch Revolt and the American Revolution"; Henk den Heijer (University of Leiden), "The Twelve Years Truce and the Foundation of the Dutch West India Company"; Jaap Bruijn (emeritus, University of Leiden), "Did the Twelve Years' Truce Alter Dutch Shipbuilding, Shipping and Trade?"; Kevin McBride (University of Connecticut), "The Source and Mother of the Fur Trade: Native-Dutch Relations in Eastern New Netherland"; Janny Venema (New Netherland Project), "Kiliaen van Rensselaer and the Twelve Years' Truce"; and a demonstration and presentation on the production of wampum by Arthur Kirmss (Vander Ende-Onderdonk House, Long Island, NY). Three of the six Seminar speakers came from the Netherlands. They were sponsored in large part by the Consulate General in New York, whose generous donation offset their travel expenses. The recently arrived Consul General of the Netherlands H. Gajus Scheltema and Consul for Press and Cultural Affairs Simone Kreutzer attended the Seminar and were honored guests at the Dinner. Examples of the records of the Patroonship Rensselaerswijck were on display at the Terrace. After the Dinner, Senior Librarian Fred Bassett spoke about their fragile condition, their contents, and the need to preserve them. Jeroen van den Hurk and Kees Jan Waterman, 2007 Hendricks Award recipients, were recognized and spoke at the Dinner.

Update on the 2009 Project

Light on New Netherland, the traveling panel exhibit on the Dutch in North America, will open at the New York State Museum in December 2008 and will go to the Historical Society of Delaware, the FDR Library and Museum, and Purchase College, with other venues under consideration. Topics include Henry Hudson, the fur trade, Indian relations, settlements beyond New Amsterdam and Beverwijck, agriculture, religion, the people of New Netherland, and much more. Robert E. Mulligan, Jr. is the exhibit curator.

Reflections on Dutch America, a book of essays edited by Dr. Martha D. Shattuck, will include articles by, among others, Russell Shorto, Jaap Jacobs, Elisabeth Paling Funk, Peter Christoph, Noah Gelfand, William Starna, and Joyce Goodfriend on such topics as medicine, Jews, children, and architecture. The book is designed to showcase the significance of New Netherland to American history. Publication by Mount Ida Press is expected in early 2009.

Illuminating New York's Dutch Past will be a 30-minute documentary, produced by Mogul One Productions, on the New Netherland Project and its connection with modern times; the importance of documentary evidence; and the process and skills involved in the translation and publication of more than 18 volumes to date of the official archives of New Netherland by Drs. Gehring and Venema. The documentary is intended for showing on PBS and commercial stations statewide and beyond. A shorter version will accompany the traveling exhibit. It will be available by the summer of 2008.

Discovery and Invention: The Worlds of Henry Hudson will be a major exhibition developed by the Museum of the City of New York with a scheduled opening of May 2009. Dr. Gehring will provide historical expertise for the exhibit that enjoys the support of major Dutch-American entities, including the New Netherland Institute.

This ambitious 4-part project, coordinated by NNI's James F. Sefcik, is budgeted at \$450,000. Fundraising efforts, led by trustee Jippe Hiemstra, has yielded more than 60% of the total to date from the NNI Board, other individuals, local foundations including the Bender Family Foundation, the William G. Broughton Family Foundation, and the Wright Family Foundation, the Netherland-America Foundation, The Holland Society of New York, Dutch-American companies such as Philips and Rabobank, Dutch foundations, and the Dutch government. Additional funding is being sought from a variety of sources. All contributions are welcome and may be sent to the New Netherland Institute.

Publication

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, will be published this spring. This publication is supported in part by a generous donation of the Peck Stacpoole Foundation.

2007 Alice P. Kenney Award

The Alice P. Kenney Award was presented on June 9 at the Ten Broeck Mansion to Karen Hartgen, Hartgen Archaeological Associates, and Charles Fisher (posthumously), New York State Museum Archaeologist. Karen is well known in the Albany area for her firm's involvement in recognizing and preserving Albany's early Dutch history; her husband, Chuck, was responsible for the preserving of Dutch artifacts and archaeological remains in the NYS Museum.

Doris G. Quinn Foundation

The Doris G. Quinn Foundation provides academic support visiting professorships, fellowships, and research residencies. Dr. Jaap Jacobs, University of Amsterdam, was the first Quinn Visiting Professor (2006-2007). He spent the spring 2007 semester at the University of Pennsylvania's McNeil Center for Early American Studies. His salary was paid in part by the University of Pennsylvania and the Quinn Foundation through the New Netherland Institute. The Quinn Fellowship program in partnership with the McNeil Center and the Quinn Foundation through the New Netherland Institute had no candidate deemed acceptable for a Quinn Fellowship for the 2007 academic year.

Two candidates were accepted for the Quinn Library Research Residency Awards: Martha Shattuck for her research and work on the New Netherland Collection (also known as the Bontemantel Papers) at the New York Public Library, and Marieke Leeverink for research on Dutch vernacular architecture in the former New Netherland area. There were no applicants for the Quinn Archives Research Residency Award. These Awards carry a stipend of \$2500 each (\$1250 contributed by Quinn via NNI and \$1250 contributed by the Library and Archives). The recipients have a year (June 2007 - May 2008) to complete their research work, and both will be required to give a public program based on their research. In 2008, the Archives Award application was due January 15 and the Library application is due by March 15.

Additions to the corpus of material on New Netherland Drs. Gehring and Venema completed the translation the Fort Orange Records, Volume Two. Dr. Martha Shattuck

has nearly completed its indexing and editing. This volume, to be published by Syracuse University Press, will be dedicated to the Peck Stacpoole Foundation in recognition of its generous support of the Project.

Dr. Charles T. Gehring and Dr. William A. Starna updated Adriaen van der Donck's Description of New Netherland, which will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in the fall of 2008.

Dr. Martha D. Shattuck has contracted with the New Netherland Institute to edit documents known as the "New Netherland Papers," held at the New York Public Library. The collection consists of about thirty-five documents, twelve of which are summarized in Stokes' Iconography. The petition from the New Amsterdam Court for permission to appoint a schout [combination of a sheriff and prosecuting attorney] appears in Records of New Amsterdam, and the Hartford Treaty appears in Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York, Vol. 1.

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. The volume will be dedicated to the memory of Peter Paulson, a founder of the New Netherland Institute and its past president. She is also completing work on A Civil Society: Court and Community in Beverwijck, New Netherland which will be published by the University of Nebraska Press.

Kirtas Technologies of Victor, NY, scanned the first four volumes of the New York Colonial Documents (Van Laer translations), now out of print, and the Curacao Papers. Volunteer Celia Diamond completed the corrections of the scanning errors and typos in the first volume and began work on the second volume. The text will be updated and corrected by Dr. Gehring and Dr. Venema. Eventually it will be available on the NNP/NNI website, where it will be searchable and printable.

Alan Kaufmann, a volunteer living in Genoa, Italy, is correcting the scanned text of the Curacao Papers. Once that work is completed, Dr. Gehring will update the volume and it will be available on the NNP/NNI web site.

George O'Connor produced his first graphic novel, Journey into Mohawk Country. Skillfully drawing upon the subtle hints and innuendoes of Van den Bogaert's journal entries to lend a new level of richness, humor, and humanity to this long-forgotten episode in American history, George's passionate research and extraordinarily expressive illustrations bring this remarkable historical document to life. Dr. Charles T. Gehring and Dr. William A. Starna translated and edited the document A Journey into Mohawk and Oneida country, 1634-1635: the Journal of Harmen Meyndertsz van den Bogaert.

Other New Netherland Institute activities

Membership grew to 420 members. Forty-eight members joined this year. They live in Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, and Washington State.

Ms. Hennie Newhouse, who worked for more than twelve years at the NNP/NNI office and retired as of September 15, was honored at the New Netherland Dinner and received a gift from the staff of the New Netherland Project, the staff and past and present trustees of the New Netherland Institute, and NNI's membership. Ms. Bonnie Urso, who commenced work at the NNI office in mid-April 2007, took Hennie's place. Bonnie is usually in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Trustee Elisabeth Funk edited and updated our Institute membership brochure, for which volunteer Annette van Rooy created a new design. Copies are available from the NNI office.

At Siena College on October 21, 2006, Charles T. Gehring, Janny Venema, and Martha D. Shattuck described their work of transcribing, translating, editing and indexing the official 17th century Dutch colonial documents of New York. A DVD of this program is available for \$12, including shipping and handling.

A CD-ROM featuring the talks given by six speakers at the 30th Rensselaerswijck Seminar is available for \$15, including shipping and handling. Both items may be ordered via the NNI e-shop at the web site or from the New Netherland Institute. Communication with NNI membership and general public worldwide

The NNP/NNI web site at www.nnp.org or www.newnetherlandinstitute.org is continually revised and updated by the web team, Howard and Elisabeth Funk.

NEWMARC-L: An announcement and information e-mail list that provides information about New Netherland-related events, activities, conferences, and research, now has almost 600 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. If you would like to subscribe to this list, do so via the web site at www.nnp.org or www.newnetherlandinstitute.org

De Nieuw Nederlanse Marcurius is NNP/NNI's quarterly newsletter. Members receive a hard copy. Issues from 1998 to the present are available on the web site. Issues from 1985 to 1998 will be scanned in 2008 and available on the web. Non-members may subscribe @ \$20 per year.

E-Discussion group: Howard and Elisabeth Funk completely revised and updated NNI's members-only facility for the discussion of topics broadly related to New Netherland in the following forum categories: New Netherland history, New Netherland people, genealogy, and language and translations. This user-friendly service is 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, Vice President, New Netherland Institute, at 518-408-1212 or by email at mdouglas@mail.nysed.gov

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