New Netherland Institute

Annual Report for
2016

President’s Message

As we begin what promises to be another genuinely productive and successful year, it is my privilege to inform you of the New Netherland Institute’s accomplishments during 2016 and our exciting projects and plans for the future.

The latest contribution to the New Netherland Documents series, Volume VIII, Council Minutes 1656–1658, is being readied for the printer, and Janney Venema has completed a draft translation of Volume XIII, Correspondence, 1659–1660. Also, we are considering using a third party, preferably one of our Emerging Scholars, for the translation of Volume XXIII, the administrative papers of Anthony Colve, 1673–1674.

Our project to digitize the remaining 9,500 pages in the New York State Archive’s collection of New Netherland’s administrative records, subsidized by the Nationaal Archief of the Netherlands and the Society of the Daughters of Holland Dames, is about complete, with most of the manuscripts now available online.

Our 39th Annual Conference, "From Pavonia to the Garden State, New Jersey’s Dutch Past,” was held in New Brunswick, New Jersey in September. It was one of our best attended and arguably one of our most successful conferences. Similarly, “Digging for our Dutch Roots,” last summer’s conference in Rochester, New York was a pleasing success.

We are delighted with the results of our fundraising raffle, which gave a lucky member a week’s stay on the Caribbean island of Saba, plus $1,000 cash towards travel. We are considering organizing a similar drawing for the coming year.

This is just a selection of our accomplishments, all of which have been attained thanks to support from you, our members and donors. We hope that you will be inspired by our ambitions and passions to make a contribution toward the work of the Institute. Your contribution is fully tax deductible under current law.

The Institute’s hard working staff, trustees, associates, donors, and friends send you their heartfelt thanks.

Yours sincerely,

R.J. Jippe Hiemstra

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Highlights

• The Dutch manuscripts in the New York State Archives are now available online.
• A new volume of translations is headed to the publisher in 2017.
• The 2016 summer conference in Rochester set the stage for similar events in the future.
Website

Our Online Exhibits page continues to grow, with the addition of two exhibits in 2016: “Slavery in New Netherland” by Dr. Andrea Mosterman and “New Netherland Family History” by Mary Collins. Expect new exhibits in 2017 from Dr. William A. Starna and Dr. David Voorhees.

Five new episodes of our podcast were added to our site in 2016, with more planned for this year. Hosted by best-selling author Russell Shorto, “New Netherland Praatjes” is a series of chats with historians, archaeologists, and other experts on New Netherland and the world of the 17th-century Dutch. Download episodes from our site or subscribe via iTunes.

We are continually working on the Online Publications of our site to better integrate our material with the growing body of New Netherland-related resources on the Web. We have recently added links to the newly posted New Netherland manuscripts in the Digital Collections of the New York State Archives.

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2017 Annual Meeting

The 30th Annual Meeting of NNI will be held on Friday, May 19th at the University Club in Albany, with a reception beginning at 5:30 pm followed by a business meeting, the Alice P. Kenney Memorial Award presentation, and a talk by Deborah Hamer, PhD, the recipient of the 2016 Annual Hendricks Award. Registration will be available on our website shortly.

Events

39th Annual Conference

With more than 130 in attendance, “From Pavonia to the Garden State: New Jersey’s Dutch Past,” was held in New Brunswick, New Jersey last September. Sixteen speakers highlighted the development of the seventeenth-century patroonship of Pavonia, the region’s lasting Dutch heritage, and New Netherland’s system of defensive works. A dinner talk focused on Washington Irving’s satirical interpretation of the Garden State’s earliest history, and a panel of three of NNI’s Emerging Scholars discussed what motivated them to study New Netherland. Plans are in place for our 40th Annual Conference this September in Albany.

Digging For Our Dutch Roots

Sponsored by NNI, the NNRC, the New York State Library, the New York State Archives Partnership Trust, Historic Brighton, and the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York, our 2016 summer conference in Rochester was a success. Attended by more than eighty-five people, the two-day program began with a keynote address by author Russell Shorto titled “The Idea of New Netherland.” Other speakers included NNRC Associate Director Janny Venema, historical painter Len Tantillo, historian George Hamell, educators Julie Daniels and Jessica Maul, and historian Peter Evans. Keep an eye on our website for details about a similar event we will be holding this summer in Hartford, Connecticut.
Education

NNI’s Emerging Scholars program continues to provide valuable funding and opportunities to budding New Netherland scholars. In June NNI organized a panel of these young scholars at the Annual Conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, in Worcester, Massachusetts. Recently, a new grant was secured from the Dutch Consulate to fund another panel at a forthcoming historical conference in 2017-2018. Panel and paper proposals have already been solicited.

On September 8, the New York City Municipal Archives and the Stadsarchief Amsterdam announced the launch of a unique effort to explore the shared cultural history that exists between two of the world’s leading cities. Guided by scholars from the New Netherland Institute, this new project will make original documents found in both archives available to the general public for the first time.

NNI has a new Associate for Educational Materials. Jessica Maul is an educational consultant for the New York State Archives Partnership Trust. She uses primary sources found at the State Archives and other repositories to develop educational resources for teachers. Jessica is also a professional archaeologist and researcher with extensive experience with prehistoric and historic era sites in New York and Virginia. She has a B.A. in History and Anthropology, an M.A. in Historical Archaeology from the College of William and Mary, and is certified to teach grades 7–12 Social Studies.
For a quarter of a century, 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, it has 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. The membership elects the Board of Trustees. A variety of corporations and foundations also contribute to NNI’s mission. NNI recognizes corporate, foundation and individual and member donors through its Circle of Friends.

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