Landmark Annual Seminar Brings Together Scholars From Two Major Scholarly Traditions

“The Dutch In America Across The Centuries: Connections And Comparisons” was held in Albany from September 17th through the 19th. Jointly sponsored by the New Netherland Institute and the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, NNI’s 38th annual seminar featured six sessions and fifteen speakers and brought together two Dutch-American scholarly traditions—one focusing on New Netherland, and the other on the 19th- and 20th-century immigration, settlement, and culture in the Midwest and beyond.

Topics included the quest for gold, the crisis of slavery, diplomacy with Native Americans, survival during the new American Republic, and the 400-year legacy of the Dutch in America. The more than 150 conference attendees were welcomed by Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan at a reception at the Fort Orange Club.

To hear recordings of all fifteen excellent conference presentations, visit http://goo.gl/Yrf96D.

Heleen Westerhuijs, co-author of Exploring Dutch New York: New York City, Hudson Valley, New Jersey, and Delaware, led a tour of the Upper Hudson Valley’s Dutch heritage sites that included visits to the Bronck Museum in Coxsackie, the Stockade District of Kingston, the Hurley Historic District in Kingston, and Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz.

Following the programs, Yono’s Restaurant prepared a special rijsttafel for conference participants. A presentation by noted author Russell Shorto entitled “Two Dutchmen in the American Revolution” highlighted the dinner.

Plans are currently underway for our 39th seminar, which will take place in New Jersey in September 2016.
President’s Message

Our efforts to support scholarly programs dedicated to the history of New Netherland are bearing fruit. In January of this year I felt a sense of pride and accomplishment listening to a presentation by Joris van den Tol in the Librarians Room at the New York State Library in Albany. Joris, our first Fulbright-NNRC Student Scholar, is a Ph.D. candidate at Leiden University. In fluent English he discussed “Shaping the Atlantic: Lobbying in New Netherland 1640–1664.”

I felt a similar feeling of pride when several of our Emerging Scholars gave papers as part of the panel “New Perspectives on Dutch New York: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Understanding New Netherland and Its Atlantic Connections” at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City a year earlier, and again listening to “Connections Across Boundaries: Expanding Perspectives on Dutch Colonization” in June at the annual conference of the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture in Chicago.

Now the challenge is to get these scholars tenured positions at colleges and universities!

Our grant proposal to the Nationaal Archief in The Hague to digitize the remaining 9,500 pages in the New Netherland colonial document series was approved. And thanks to a generous contribution from the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, the metadata portion of the project will also be funded. The project will take an estimated three years.

Dr. Gehring and Dr. Venema continued to prepare the translation of Council Minutes, Volume 8, 1656–1658. Publication is scheduled within the next few months.

Over 150 people attended our 38th Annual New Netherland Seminar/Conference, held in partnership with the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies (AADAS). The Hendricks Award was presented to Donna Merwick and the Clague and Carol Van Slyke Article prize to Jeroen Dewulf.

More than 30 organizations are now listed with DAG (Dutch American Group). The goal of DAG is to share ongoing research and events and to provide a platform to exchange ideas and foster collaboration.

Sadly we lost our past president Charles Wendell. His wit, humor and charm will be truly missed. As Russell Shorto so eloquently stated, Charles “had the same generous demeanor, the same smile-with-the eyes way of being, toward everyone he knew.” In his honor we have established the Charles W. Wendell Memorial Fund to support an annual research award.

NNI received a generous gift from the estate of Arlene Barlow. Arlene was a descendant of Catalyne Tricaud (Trico) and Jan Joris Rapalje, the youngest of the thirty founding families of New Netherland. We are soliciting ideas from our membership and beyond for ideas and implementation of a children’s or teenager’s book featuring Trijntje.

NNI’s members, friends, and supporters are the backbone of our organization. We hope that our successes, ambitions, passions, and challenges are inspiring, and that you will continue to support our efforts.

Annual General Meeting

The 2015 annual meeting took place at the University Club in Albany on May 16th. Speakers included Peter Christoph with an update on his research and Education Associate Dennis Maika with a summary of teacher workshops and other educational programs held in 2015.

Winner of the 2014 Hendricks Award Jeroen Dewulf was the featured speaker with the presentation “A Strong Barbaric Accent: America's Dutch-Speaking Black Community From Seventeenth-Century New Netherland to Nineteenth-Century New York and New Jersey.”
Professional Development Workshops
Ground Teachers in New Netherland History

NNI partnered with the New Netherland Research Center, the New York State Museum, and the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center to present a three-part workshop on New Netherland history to fourth and seventh grade teachers.

Twenty-five teachers attended the first session in the workshop series on Saturday, August 8th at the New York State Museum and Thursday, August 13th at the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center. Len Tantillo, Charles Gehring, Bill Starna, Julie Daniels of the State Archives, and the staff of the New York State Museum gave presentations and engaged participants in lively discussions about political and economic characteristics of New Netherland, daily life in the colony, relations between the Indians and the Dutch, and lasting contributions and legacy.

Participating teachers enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the rich collections of the New York State Museum related to Dutch colonial history and discussions of how to incorporate historical artifacts into their teaching. They were presented with a wealth of primary source-based lesson plans written by certified teachers that enable teachers to engage with primary sources and evidence-based discussion called for in the new New York State Social Studies Frameworks.

A follow-up workshop was presented on Thursday, October 1st at the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center. Janny Venema served as the resource and subject expert, assisting the attending teachers with creating, critiquing, and implementing curriculum materials they developed.

The third session in the workshop series was held at the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center on Thursday, December 10th. NNI Education Associate Dennis Maika served as resource and subject expert. All three sessions were organized by NNI Associate for Educational Material Josie Madison. Jessica Maul, Educational Consultant for the NYS Archives, led the two follow-up workshops. The teachers’ response was overwhelmingly positive. At the final session, one veteran educator remarked that this was the best professional development course she had ever taken.

In an effort to connect with educators in the lower Hudson Valley, NNI sponsored a workshop on slavery in New Netherland and early New York for 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teachers at the A.M.D. Middle School, Ossining, New York. Representatives from Historic Hudson Valley (HHV), a not-for-profit education organization that interprets and promotes such historic landmarks as Philipsburg Manor, Van Cortlandt Manor, and Washington Irving’s Sunnyside, also attended the Monday, November 2nd session, conducted by Dennis Maika, which offered educators both information about the historical context for teaching slavery and a variety of primary sources. After the session, A.M.D Middle School Assistant Principal Stephen Hancock, HHV representatives, and Dennis Maika discussed future collaborative possibilities.

New Netherland Included in NYSED Resource Toolkit

The New York State Education Department has included a New Netherland topic in its Resource Toolkit for fourth grade entitled “What’s the Real Story Behind the Purchase of Manhattan?” Dennis Maika worked in collaboration with Julianne Maika, an elementary and special education teacher, to revise NYSED materials on the sale of Manhattan and present the information in a more readable and comprehensible format for fourth graders. For more information go to http://www.c3teachers.org/inquiries/manhattan-purchase/.
Emerging Scholars Panels Present New Research

In 2015, we sponsored the participation of NNI’s Emerging Scholars in two panels held at major historical conferences. The intention was to give these budding scholars a chance to present their work to a wider audience of historians. The first session was held at the American Historical Association’s Annual Meeting in New York City on January 4. Entitled “New Perspectives on Dutch New York: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Understanding New Netherland and Its Atlantic Connections,” the panel featured papers by NNI Emerging Scholars alumni Jeroen van den Hurk, Deborah Hamer, Danny L. Noorlander, and Andrea Mosterman. Willem Klooster of Clark University provided the commentary and Dennis Maika chaired the session.

In June, NNI sponsored another group of Emerging Scholars as they presented their work to the annual meeting of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture in Chicago. The panelists and papers were as follows: Susanah Romney, “If At First You Fail: New Amsterdam in the Context of Catastrophic Colonies;” Nicole Maskiel, “As if my Negro has Said it: Honor, Profit, and the Rhetorical World of Elite Dutch Slaveholders;” and Melissa Morris, “Before Brazil: Knowledge and Experience in the Early Dutch Republic.” Jessica Vance Roitman from the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies chaired the session and offered commentary.

Another panel has been organized for the June 2016 meeting of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture to be held in Worcester, Massachusetts. The panel, entitled “Transforming the Eastern Woodlands: Native-European Encounters in the Dutch Colony of New Netherland,” will explore the impact on native inhabitants of the Eastern Woodlands and their encounters with European settlers in the seventeenth century. Papers will be presented by Stephen Staggs, Nicholas Cunigan, and Erin Kramer. The session will be moderated by Danny L. Noorlander with comments offered by Mark Meuwese.

Emerging Scholars Andrea Mosterman and Deborah Hamer, along with Dennis Maika, were invited to present their work on New Netherland slavery at a two-day “Expert Meeting/Workshop,” held at Brown University in April and sponsored by the University’s Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice.

MCNY Develops New Netherland Curriculum Materials

Following numerous collaborative teacher workshops with NNI over the past few years, the Museum of the City of New York has developed its own curriculum project on New Netherland history. The museum requested advice and support from Dennis Maika. The final product was officially unveiled at a full-day teacher conference sponsored by MCNY with the support of the Dutch Consulate on November 20th. The material can be accessed at http://www.mcny.org/content/educators-guides#edu-guide-resources.

Dennis Maika presented a morning workshop on New Netherland trade. In the afternoon, Julie Daniels and Jessica Maul of the NY State Archives conducted a workshop using the new “Consider the Source” New Netherland material.

Fulbright Scholar

NNI welcomes its first Fulbright-New Netherland Institute Student Scholar, Joris van den Tol. Mr. Van den Tol is the 2015 recipient of the joint Student Scholar Research Grant, a combined endeavor of the New Netherland Institute, the Office of Cultural Education, and the New York State Education Department, with the Fulbright Center of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The $3,000 grant helps support a three-month residence at the New Netherland Research Center (NNRC), with the research taking place at the NNRC, the New York State Library, and the New York State Archives.

The research must take place in the field of New Netherland history and the Dutch Atlantic World using the records of New Netherland. Mr. Van den Tol presented his research in the talk “Permeability of Power: the Duality of Structure and Colonial Lobbying in the Dutch Atlantic.”
Staff Presentations

New Netherland Research Center staff and NNI associates presented talks and gave interviews throughout the Capital Region and beyond in 2015.

In October, NNRC Director Dr. Charles Gehring was interviewed by PBS for a documentary on the Helderbergs. The program aired in December.

NNRC Associate Director Dr. Janny Venema presented a talk entitled “Emigratie en Nieuw Nederland: 1609–1664 en 1984–2015” at the Flehite Museum in Amersfoort in the Netherlands. This was in conjunction with the exhibit “Thuis in twee werelden; de mooiste emigratieverhalen” (“At Home in Two Worlds: the Most Beautiful Emigration Stories”) on September 8th.

Dr. Venema gave a series of lectures at the Warwick Center on the use of historic documents, the history of the Dutch Republic, Kiliaen van Rensselaer, and Beverwijck. She also spoke at the annual New York Genealogical and Biographical Society banquet in Albany on, “Charity in Seventeenth-century Albany and the Records Left for Our Benefit” on October 29th and presented talks to residents at the Beverwyck independent senior living community in Albany in May and at the Sand Lake Historical Society in June.

Dr. Gehring and Dr. Venema provided interviews at the Clermont State Historic Site for a new film on the Livingstons.

Russell Shorto continued to research his book on the American Revolution, which involved periods at the New York State Library and State Archives researching two Dutch-Americans: Albany native Abraham Yates Jr. and Seneca leader Cornplanter.

Russell also hosted interviews in the “New Netherland Praatjes” series of podcasts with scholars James Bradley, Susanah Romney, Jeroen Dewulf, Dennis Maika, and Janny Venema. All interviews are available on the NNI website.

Mr. Shorto was also keynote speaker at the August 12th session of the NYSED conference “Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core.” His talk was about the use of primary sources. He also gave a presentation on “Two Dutchmen in the American Revolution” at the annual NNI Dinner in September.

NNI Education Associate Dennis Maika and Josie Madison, Associate for Education Materials, also attended the NYSED conference “Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core.”

Dr. Gehring and historical artist Len Tantillo gave a lecture at a teacher workshop at the old Custom House in Manhattan in August that was sponsored by the New York City Department of Education entitled “New Netherland through History and Art.”

Dr. Dennis Maika continues progress on his book about seventeenth-century Manhattan merchants and the city’s municipal government. Dennis was interviewed by Russell Shorto for an episode of the “New Netherland Praatjes” podcast in which he spoke about his research.

Dr. Maika was one of seven historians and anthropologists invited to contribute short essays to “Roundtable: The Past, Present, and Future of New Netherland Studies,” recently published in New York History, the quarterly journal of the New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown.
Translation Work Continues

The translation of New York’s colonial Dutch documents continues. Drs. Gehring and Venema are working to reconcile language differences, find matching documents to fill in gaps, and prepare Council Minutes, Volume 8, 1656–1658 for publication. Dr. Venema is also working to resolve problems that arose in identifying documents after preservation treatments. She continues her work on the translation of Volume 13.

Podcasts and Translations Accessible On the NNI Website

More early Dutch history is accessible via the NNI website.

Five episodes of our podcast “New Netherland Praatjes” are now posted to the website. Hosted by Russell Shorto, the series features chats with historians, archaeologists, and other experts on New Netherland and the world of the seventeenth-century Dutch and can be accessed either via iTunes or the NNI website.

The first episode features NNRC Director Charles Gehring. Other episodes feature conversations between Russell Shorto and archeologist James Bradley, historical artist Len Tantillo, and historian Susanah Romney.

Future episodes featuring Associate Director of the New Netherland Research Center Janny Venema and historian and 2015 Clague and Carol Van Slyke Article Prize Winner Jeroen Dewulf will be released in the coming months.

All of the translations done by the New Netherland Project/New Netherland Research Center are now accessible on the NNI website. Nearly all the early twentieth-century translations by A.J.F. van Laer have also been posted and can be accessed on the website.

Halve Maen on Exhibit in the Netherlands

The replica of Henry Hudson’s ship the Halve Maen continues to be on display in the city of Hoorn. Hoorn was one of the major regions involved in the Dutch East India company. The ship will be on display for the next two years. The New Netherland Museum remains owner of the ship.

Work on the Education Section of the Website in Progress

Associate for Educational Material Josie Madison has begun work to improve NNI’s online education resources to bring them more in line with the revised New York State Social Studies Frameworks. Dennis Maika also wrote an additional piece for the “What was New Netherland?” section on our website.

While awaiting its final release by the NYS Archives, the new “Consider the Source” New Netherland education materials, produced in partnership between NNI and the NYS Archives Partnership Trust, are currently available on the NNI website. (See For Teachers, Consider the Source at www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/education/for-teachers/consider-the-source/)
Grants From Society of Daughters of Holland Dames Support NNI Web Efforts

A grant from the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Families of New Netherland, will help sustain and expand NNI web efforts over the next three years.

NNI was awarded a Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Families of New Netherland Project Assistance Grant that provides $25,000 per year over three years. The grant will ensure that NNI is able to continue making all relevant material emanating from the NNRC and elsewhere available to scholars, researchers, educators, and the general public.

NNI’s Stephen McErleane will oversee the project. McErleane has served as the NNI Projects Manager and Web Content Editor for the past three years. He holds advanced degrees in history and information science and is currently a doctoral student in history at the University at Albany.

The Society of Holland Dames has also agreed to fund the $40,000 metadata component of a project that will digitize the remaining records of the government of New Netherland in the collection of the New York State Archives. The metadata portion of the project facilitates online access to the manuscript scans. This work is expected to take less than two years. Work began in December 2015.

Founded in 1895, the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames supports excellence in historical research relating to the Dutch in America, New Netherland, and the Atlantic World and seeks to increase awareness of the people and culture of New Netherland.

Other Awards

The 2015 Hendricks Award for the best book or book-length manuscript relating to the Dutch colonial experience in North America before the American Revolution was awarded to Donna Merwick for her book *Stuyvesant Bound: An Essay on Loss Across Time*.

The 2015 Clague and Carol Van Slyke Article Prize was awarded to Jeroen Dewulf for his article “Emulating a Portuguese Model: The Slave Policy of the West India Company and the Dutch Reformed Church in Dutch Brazil (1630–1654).”

The Alice P. Kenney Memorial Award for significant contributions to colonial Dutch studies and understanding of the Dutch colonial experience will be increased from $1,000 to $5,000 in 2016. There were no submissions for the award in 2015.

To date approximately 2,500 of the 12,000 manuscript pages have been digitized and will be available online as part of the ongoing work funded by a 3-year matching grant from the Dutch government in 2009. Transcriptions of all 12,000 manuscript pages and the 8,000 pages of translations completed by the New Netherland Research Center will be made available online with support from the NNI.
Looking Ahead

Submissions for the annual Hendricks Award were due February 1. The designated category for submissions in 2016 is recently completed dissertations and unpublished book-length manuscripts.

Several digital exhibits are in the final stages of preparation. Exhibits on slavery in New Netherland, Indians of New Netherland, and the legacy of New Netherland are expected to be online in 2016. A fourth exhibit on families with New Netherland ties is being developed and is also expected to be online in 2016.

Efforts to complete the digitization of the remaining 9,500 pages of original documents from the colonial government of New Netherland in the collections of the New York State Archives are expected to begin early in 2016. The Nationaal Archief of the Netherlands awarded NNI $20,000 for the effort. The digitized documents will be accessible via both the OCE and the Nationaal Archief of the Netherlands websites. These documents 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 exploring the Dutch chapter in American history, its legacy of cultural traditions, and its qualities of tolerance, diversity, and entrepreneurship.

NNI volunteer Corliss Tantillo is correcting the scanned copy of O’Callaghan’s Calendar, which will eventually be uploaded to the NNI website along with corrections and additions made by Drs. Gehring and Venema.

All of the Albany County Hall of Records Fort Orange records have been digitized and will be accessible via the NNI website in 2016.

Plans are underway for the 2016 Annual New Netherland Seminar, which will take place in New Brunswick, New Jersey at the New Brunswick Seminary September 22 through 24.

Charles W. Wendell

NNI is saddened by the 2015 passing of our good friend and colleague Charles W. Wendell. Charles served on the board of the New Netherland Institute beginning in 2000, serving as Vice President from 2000 to 2006 and as President from 2006 to 2012.

Charles held a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Yale University and spent more than thirty years as a professor of French. An ardent advocate of New Netherland studies, he developed an online map exhibit entitled “Charting New Netherland, 1597–1682” using his extensive knowledge of seventeenth-century maps. At the time of his death, he was working with former librarian of The Holland Society Mary Collins on the digital exhibit “Using New Netherland Records to Support Family History.” Mary has completed the project, and it will be on NNI’s website in 2016.

Charles’s contributions to NNI will be felt and appreciated well into the future.

In honor of our late friend and colleague, the New Netherland Institute has established a Charles W. Wendell Memorial Fund to support what we hope will be an annual research award. Researchers in any discipline will be eligible, and any project dealing with the Dutch experience in the New World before 1800 will be considered. Research should draw attention to the rich collections of primary and secondary sources in Dutch colonial history in America at the New Netherland Research Center, the New York State Archives, and the New York State Library. Information on the application process will be on our website in 2016.

To contribute to the fund, go to www.newnetherlandinstitute.org and click on “Programs” and select “Research Grants”
Support from the Dutch Government is one important part of the funding that enables The New Netherland Institute to continue its many programs and research efforts. NNI is a membership organization, and member dues and donations are another important contribution to NNI’s work with the New Netherland Research Center and generally help tell the story of the Dutch legacy in America. Corporate and foundation donors also play a major role. NNI’s Circle of Friends recognizes individual and institutional supporters annually for the period July 1st through June 30th. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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