

2011 Annual Report of the
New Netherland Institute

March 2012





New Netherland Institute

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The 2011 Annual Report

Dutch on the Delaware

New Castle is the site of the 2011 seminar

“Dutch on the Delaware,” the 34th New Netherland Seminar in September, was remarkable in at least two ways: the place and the faces.

The annual seminar of the New Netherland Institute was held in Delaware for the first time. New Castle, Delaware, sits in the southern part of the 17th-century New Netherland colony. Albany, New York, is at the northern border.

Another remarkable point was that representatives of eight states and two foreign countries heard the presentations and took part in lively discussions over the two days. The seminar brought together representatives of some 40 organizations, each with a different focus on the history of the area. The roll call reminded us that the colony included parts of Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The speakers shared their research on the colonial period of what was then known as New Sweden. Their subjects ranged from the archaeology of the region to later aspects of its democracy, trade, and liberty of conscience.

The Seminar Speakers

The speakers were:

Mark L. Thompson, the University of Groningen

Frans R. E. Blom, the University of Amsterdam

Henk Looijesteijn, the International Institute of Social History

David A. Furlow of Houston, Texas

Craig R. Lukezic, archaeologist with the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Len Tantillo of upstate New York, fine artist of historical and marine paintings

Christian J. Koot of Towson University, Maryland

Evan Haefeli of Columbia University

Samuel W. Heed, Esq., senior historian and director of education of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation.

The 35th annual New Netherland Seminar, “Scholars Present New Research on New Netherland,” will be held in Schenectady at the Mabee Farm, part of the Schenectady County Historical Society, Sept. 14 and 15, 2012.

The New Netherland Research Center at work

In 2011 the New Netherland Research Center continued its momentum of transcribing, translating, and publishing the 12,000 documents of the New Netherland colony.

The translation of the memorandum book of Antony de Hooghes, secretary of the patroonship of Rensselaerswijck, was completed by Dirk Mouw. “A Copy of Various Acts and Other Noteworthy Memoranda 1646,” says the title page, shown at left. The 95 pages tell the story of business affairs in the colony.



Dr. Charles Th. Gehring, director of the NNRC, and Dr. Janny Venema, assistant director, continue work on volume 8 of the *Council Minutes 1657–1658*.

A.J.F. van Laer’s translation of volume 2 has been posted on the NNRC website. Van Laer was a noted translator and editor of Dutch-language documents from New Netherland and 17th-century Fort Orange.

The New York State Library has completed scanning the translated volume *Correspondence of Jeremias van Rensselaer*. The title character was a member of the family that owned Rensselaerswijck.

Translation of the *Curaçao Papers, 1640-1645*, has been posted on the NNRC website. The work by editors Dr. Gehring and Dr. J. Schiltkamp contains information about New Netherland and the Dutch colony in the Caribbean.

Journalists both American and foreign often contact the NNRC. Dr. Venema appeared in a radio and TV program of the *Wereldroep* about Dutch emigrants in the past and present. She was interviewed about her award-winning book about Kiliaen van Rensselaer and spoke about her own life as Dutch woman living in America. She also teaches a Dutch language course at the University at Albany.

Senior Scholar Eric Ruijsenaars has spoken on several aspects of the NNRC research. At the University at Albany he moderated a panel on “Aftermath,” or what happens following a major disruption. His focus was on the 1664 English takeover of New Netherland, in terms of Indian policy, women’s rights, and commercial activities.

The NNI 2011 Annual Meeting

The NNI brought its annual meeting to the old Dutch city of Schenectady in May 2011. Dr. Dirk Mouw, an authority on the history of the Dutch Reformed Church, spoke about religions in the Dutch colony. He addressed the topic of “A Silver Lining? How New Netherland Church-Goers Seized New Opportunities Presented by the English Conquest, 1665-1699.”

Mouw won the institute’s 2010 Annual Hendricks Award for his dissertation on *Moederkerk and Vaderland: Religion and Ethnic Identity in the Middle Colonies, 1690-1772*.

He earned his doctorate at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, following a master’s degree in history at the University of Iowa and a bachelor of arts degree in history and philosophy from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Stockade Inn, site of the meeting, stands on land bought in 1661 by Arent Van Corlaer, the founder of Schenectady and a kinsman of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, patroon of Rensselaerswijck.

A Message from Our President

“Beyond 2012” seems to be our current mantra. It expresses the Institute’s double focus on current work and future targets. In the present, our attention is on our relationship with our partner in the New Netherland Research Center, the State Education Department, for preserving and publishing New Netherland’s primary source material. One result will be the updated “Guide to Dutch Manuscripts relating to New Netherland in U.S. Repositories” done by Dr. Gehring in 1978.

Research on New Netherland continues to expand. Our one-year, in-residence Senior Scholar **Eric Ruijsenaars** ends his stay in April; already in line for 2012-2013 is **Dr. Dennis Maika**. Also, financial support has begun to arrive for a K-12 curriculum workshop for teachers in Summer 2012.

Our student research scholarships in partnership with the Quinn Foundation are alive and well. Further work to encourage research includes the administration of the annual Kenney and Hendricks Awards. Our list of funded publications grows by the season.

The Institute’s oldest outreach program is the New Netherland Seminar (formerly the Rensselaerswijck Seminar). This year’s 34th event was for the first time held in Delaware to present the story of New Sweden. The premium mix of all ingredients



*Photo by Dietrich Gehring
Delaware’s Secretary of State, Jeffrey W. Bullock, left, and NNI President Charles W. Wendell, right, in conversation.*

made it one of our most successful seminars.

Most compelling for casting our eyes forward is the final challenge to match the Dutch Government’s three-year grant. Third years are always tough for matching funds; and how do we avoid falling off the cliff when the end comes? The Institute’s historic growth makes us optimistic that there’ll be no cliff! Just to be sure, we are already building bridges: in the continuing work of the New Netherland Research Center, in

publications, in educational initiatives, in our long list of yet-to-be-dones, in raising the funds to do it all well beyond 2012.

I am not able to improve on my final statement in last year’s message to you:

Well done! Quality pays! Let’s continue to prove it!
Charles W. Wendell

Howard L. Funk, Webmaster

Our loyal webmaster Howard L. Funk, 81, died Oct. 25, 2011, leaving a long list of clients and organizations saddened by his absent expertise, generosity, and friendship. The Institute benefitted greatly from his voluntarily providing and maintaining our website, so necessary to exist and succeed in today’s world.

After 40 years with IBM, Armonk, N.Y., where he spearheaded and implemented the company’s first corporate internet connection (1990), allowing thousands of company employees to join the internet, Howard retired in 1993 and created H.L. Funk Consulting, a technical consulting service. Among his many successes the website he created for the town of Lewisburg, Conn., in 2005, was recognized as the best in the state.

The Institute’s appreciation would be incomplete without recognizing Howard’s wife Lies (Elisabeth). As former trustee and active liaison from the board to the website, Lies has filtered all information to the Master. We honor this relationship and our grateful memory of Howard. Our sympathy goes out to his family.
Charles W. Wendell

Education report tells of NNI's work

Institute on Archaeology and History of New Netherland

Plans continue to hold a 5-day, 30-hour summer institute for 10 elementary and middle school teachers in 2012. The institute, with funding from the Equinox Foundation, will focus on helping teachers integrate more content on New Netherland into their lessons. Teachers will meet leading scholars of New Netherland and learn about the artifacts and documents that are the basis of their scholarship. **Dr. Dennis Maika**, the NNRC 2012 Senior Scholar in Residence, will provide guidance in this arena.

Public Broadcasting System for New York State has invited the NNI education team to participate in plans for the NYS Education Department booth at the PBS Celebration of Teaching and Learning in New York City in March. This event, organized by WNET, brings thousands of teachers from the region to New York City.

Mentoring exchange students

In collaboration with Siena College, NNRC staff members plan to work with Dutch exchange students from Radboud University, Nijmegen, on independent research projects or internships.

Archives program "Consider the Source"

With support of a grant from NNI in 2011, the NYS Archives is developing a New Netherland curriculum as a part of its educational program, "Consider the Source."

The New Netherland curriculum will enrich primary source educational material for grades 4 and 7 and for high school curriculum.

About The New Netherland Institute

The New Netherland Institute is a membership organization that supports the New Netherland Research Center in its mission.

Raising funds is a continuing activity of the institute, especially to match funds required for the Dutch government's 2009 grant to support the augmented program of the NNRC.

The institute's activities include publishing books and holding events such as the Annual Meeting and the New Netherland Seminar.

In education, the institute works with teachers, researchers, historians, museum curators, genealogists, archeologists, and anthropologists; assists the writers of scholarly and popular books on America's Dutch history; and provides internships and other learning opportunities.

The Jacob A. Schiltkamp Collection is given to the NNRC

Recently the NNRC received the entire library of Jacob A. Schiltkamp, a highly placed legal official in Curaçao, who died last year. Dr. Charles Gehring, director of the NNRC, called it one of the best collections of materials on the Dutch in the Atlantic world. The collection consists of 68 cartons weighing 2,100 pounds. Schiltkamp was co-editor of the *Curaçao Papers*. His publications produced a significant research library, including 17th-century books and atlases.



Scholarship is honored in 2011 Awards

Annual Hendricks Award

At the New Netherland Seminar in New Castle, the Annual Hendricks Award was presented to **Dr. Janny Venema** for her 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 the founder of the patroonship Rensselaerswijck, in what is now the capital region of New York State. Venema is assistant director of the NNRC.

The Annual Hendricks Award is given for the best book or book-length manuscript relating to any aspect of the Dutch colonial experience in North America until the American Revolution.

The Alice P. Kenney Award

The Alice P. Kenney Award was presented to **Robert G. Sullivan**, reference librarian at the Schenectady County Public Library, at the NNI annual meeting in Schenectady in May.

The award recognizes his contribution to understanding the significance of the Dutch colonial experience in North America. He was honored for his early recognition of the potential of the internet as a research tool in genealogy and his continuing work to increase the amount of information on the Schenectady library's Digital History section.

Senior Scholar in Residence

The 2011 Grants Committee of the NNRC approved **Dr. Dennis Maika** as Senior Scholar in Residence. He is a Fellow of the New Netherland Institute, the Holland Society of New York, and the New York Academy of History, and serves as a consultant on various local history and education projects. He has written numerous articles and papers and is currently working on a book about 17th-century New Amsterdam. Maika taught history and psychology at Fox Lane High School, Bedford, N.Y.

Student Scholar

Huibrecht (Brecht) Cornelisse holds a master's degree in archeology and a baccalaureate degree in history from Leiden University.

Both scholars will significantly contribute to the field of New Netherland studies during their residencies. They have also indicated areas in which they foresee making a contribution to the NNRC during their tenure: Maika in curriculum development, teacher education, and strengthening the connection with Siena College, Cornelisse in transcribing as yet untouched New Netherland records.

The Quinn Library Research Residency

Bethany Romanowski, winner of the 2011 Quinn Library Research Residency, received her master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago in 2002. Since then she has worked at several New York City museums and is currently employed by the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution as a collections registrar.

She will guest curate an exhibition at the Vander Ende-Onderdonk House, the oldest Dutch Colonial stone house in New York City.

Her research, which will focus on tactics used by the West India Company and Kiliaen van Rensselaer to recruit colonists to settle in New Netherland, will support the exhibition "Van der Donck's New Netherland." The exhibit will introduce visitors to Adriaen van der Donck's work *A Description of New Netherland* and analyze it as a recruitment tool for settlement in New Netherland, in comparison with strategies employed by the West India Company.



Board of Trustees adds three new members

The NNI begins 2012 with three new trustees on the board. New members are Phoebe Powell Bender of Albany, N.Y.; Cor Broekhuijse of Riverside, Conn.; and Leslie Keating Swanson of Wilmington, Del.

Phoebe Powell Bender has been an active community volunteer, serving on many non-profit boards of organizations in the areas of the arts, public policy, and reproductive health. She has been president of eight non-profit organizations.

She was born in Coeymans and is a descendant of its founder, Barent Pieterse Coeymans, who came from Holland in 1639. The town was part of the Rensselaerswijck patroonship.

Mrs. Bender and her husband, Matthew Bender IV, are active with OurHudson, which continues to build on the Hudson400 celebrations to develop historic tourism in the entire Hudson Valley. In 2004, she and her husband were awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York State Office of Parks and Historic Preservation for their years of activities promoting historic preservation.

She was a vice president of the Museum Association of NY State and The Community Foundation for the Capital Region. Her chairmanships in the cultural area include The Federation of Historical Services, The Shaker Heritage Society, and the Albany Institute of History and Art, where she was the first woman to be president in its over 200-year history.

Mrs. Bender has also been honored with other awards, including the Albany YWCA Tribute to Women Award and the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce James W. Michaels Envoy Salute Award for exemplary community service. In 2000 the chamber named her among the 100 Women of Excellence.

Cor Broekhuijse of Riverside, Conn., brings an international perspective to the NNI board of trustees. A Dutch national, he was an executive of Rabobank, a Dutch bank, for more than 30 years, before retiring in 2009 from his responsibilities for operations in North and South America. Earlier he was responsible for the bank's operations in Australia and New Zealand.

He continues to serve as chairman of the board of two of the bank's subsidiaries.

On the international scene, Broekhuijse is a member of the board of trustees of Cimmyt, a Mexican not-for-profit organization sponsored by the World Bank, and many government agencies and private donors. Its goal is to develop new wheat and corn varieties for the world's climate-challenged areas.

Broekhuijse was an executive of Rabobank, with offices in New York City, at the time of his first encounter with the NNI. He was asked to contribute funds for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage to America. He was pleased to contribute on behalf of the Dutch bank as a demonstration of not only initiatives of a commercial nature but those that support society in general as well.

The quadricentennial project intrigued Broekhuijse with the history of the Dutch in this country. He organized a party for the bank's staff to view the 2009 "Light on New Netherland" exposition, believing that it was important for employees working for a Dutch bank to have an understanding of Dutch history in this country.

(Continued on next page)

Broekhuijse accepted the invitation to join the NNI board of trustees to advance his aim that the Dutch legacy should be better known in the United States.

Leslie Keating Swanson, a native of Wilmington DE, is a descendant of many early New Netherland settlers.

In addition to her new post on the board of trustees of the NNI, she is also a member of many genealogical societies associated with her Dutch, English, French and Swedish heritage. She is a descendant of Stephen Hopkins of the *Mayflower*.

The NNI is of special interest to her. Last summer, she traveled to Amsterdam for further research on her 9th great-grandfather, Ki-

liaen Van Rensselaer, proprietor of Rensselaerswijck.

Her past career in investments and comprehensive financial planning was with Morgan Stanley in Philadelphia and BB&T's Wealth Management division in Annapolis. She is currently pursuing her CFP designation (Certified Financial Planner).

Over the years, Swanson has been a vice president, Estate Planning Council of Suburban Maryland; an Investment Committee member, Mid-Shore Community Foundation; on two hospital Planned Giving committees; and an adjunct member of the CFA Society of Philadelphia.

The officers and the board of trustees

President	Dr. Charles W. Wendell
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The map on the cover was drawn by Nicolaes Visscher in the mid-17th century. One of the best known maps of the Dutch colony, it boasts a vignette, in the lower right hand corner, with one of the earliest views of New Amsterdam, which was renamed New York City in 1664.

Ex Officio

Dr. Charles T. Gehring, Director,
 New Netherland Research Center
 Loretta Ebert, New York State Library
 Dr. Scott Taylor, liaison, Siena College

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