The “1614” Quilt Featured at the 2014 Seminar
Support from the Dutch Government is one important part of 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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Friends and Colleagues

- Ann Pfau left NNI in early February. Ms. Pfau organized the Summer Teachers Institute and made it an ongoing and successful program of NNI. Before her departure, she created a series of nicely illustrated “Reads” designed for elementary and middle school classroom use. They can be accessed at http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/education/for-students/fun-re/

- Jim van der Swan, privately-funded intern from Radboud University in Nijmegen, spent three months researching at the NNRC.

- Director of the New Netherland Research Center Dr. Charles Gehring was awarded the Herbert H. Lehman Prize for Distinguished Service to New York History by the New York Academy of History at its annual dinner in April.

- Josie Madison, Managing Editor of New York Archives Magazine and a doctoral student at SUNY Albany, has joined NNI to assist with revisions to the lesson plans currently on the website and add new lesson plans produced by teachers in our 2013 workshop at the Museum of the City of New York. She is currently negotiating with the new education director of the New York State Museum to set up a fourth teacher workshop using archaeological material.

Dutch Consul General Participates in NNI Programs

Dutch Consul General Rob de Vos partnered with NNI on two programs. On April 15, he visited the Office of Cultural Education to view a presentation of “Consider the Source” and participated in a roundtable discussion with State Library and State Archives staff.

At the Consul General’s request, Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte participated with Senior Scholar Russell Shorto and New York City students from Loyola High School in a workshop at the Museum of the City of New York in September. The workshop addressed the shared history of Old and New Amsterdam and how much of Dutch culture and traditions were actually preserved in New Amsterdam following the English invasion.

Over $3,000 worth of raffle tickets were sold. Dr. Alfred Wolkomir of Rumson, New Jersey was the lucky winner.

Presentations provided a broad perspective on current knowledge about the Dutch in the New World, including evidence of the location of Fort Nassau, relations with Native Americans, the impact of English influence in neighboring New England, French colonial activities, and how investigations of 17th Century Dutch fortifications in Brazil cast light on defensive structures and activities in New Netherland.

Speakers and topics were:
- L.F. Tantillo “Fort Nassau (Albany, NY), 1614: An Architectural Interpretation of its Location and Appearance,”
- William Starna, PhD “Truths and Consequences in American Indian–Dutch Affairs—The View from 1614,”
- Willem Frijhoff, PhD “Jacob Eelkens Revisited: A Young Franco–Dutch Entrepreneur in the New World,”
- Leslie Choquette, PhD “1614: The View from New France,”
- Jeremy Bangs, PhD “What were the English up to?”
- Oscar Hefting & Hans van Westing “Dutch fortifications in New Netherland.”

The 2015 Seminar will take place on September 17 through 19 in Albany, New York. The conference will be held in conjunction with the 20th biennial conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies. One of the conference's primary goals is to join two major scholarly traditions that focus on migration from the Netherlands: one focusing on New Netherland and the other on 19th and 20th century immigration, settlement, and culture in the Midwest and beyond.

2014 Annual Report

“1614” Quilt Highlight of 2014 Seminar

Four hundred years after the founding of Fort Nassau on Castle Island, the present-day Port of Albany, leading scholars from the US and the Netherlands celebrated its founding at the 37th New Netherland Seminar in Albany on September 20th.

The event took place in the Carole Huxley Theater of the Cultural Education Center and was highlighted by the raffle of the “1614 Quilt.” Designed by Len Tantillo and quilted by Bonnie Urso and Corliss Tanillo, the quilt features a 17th century ship representing Dutch commercial activity in the Hudson Valley. The quilt was on display at the Albany Heritage Visitors Center and the New York State Museum prior to the Seminar.

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**President’s Message**

This was a very productive year for NNI, filled with accomplishments and successes. The 37th annual New Netherland Seminar, 1614, featured leading scholars from the US and the Netherlands who helped celebrate the founding of Fort Nassau with presentations on a broad range of current knowledge about the Dutch in the New World. A highlight of the seminar was the “1614 Quilt.” Designed by Len Tanillo and quilted by Bonnie Urso and Corliss Tanillo, the quilt raised more than $3000 in a raffle.

Meanwhile, the second Emerging Scholars Roundtable was held on Friday, September 19 at the Fort Orange Club. The Hendricks Award was presented to Jeroen Dewulf. David William Voorhees received the Clague and Carol Van Slyke Article Prize. You can read more about both elsewhere in this report.

We continue to add content to our website, with all published translations by Dr. Charles Gehring and Dr. Janny Venema now posted. Other online additions include a family history site which will provide thematic contexts and documentary sources for genealogical research, “New Netherland Scholars Forum” that provides an opportunity for scholars to post additions to NNI’s on-line New Netherland Bibliography, and the Lookermans article with correspondence and translations, including A.J.F. van Laer’s three volumes of minutes of the Court of Albany, Rensselaerwyck and Schenectady.

Dr. Gehring and Dr. Venema have completed the translation of volume 8, Council Minutes 1656-1658, with publication scheduled in the coming year.

On-line exhibits currently in production feature Indians of New Netherland, the Legacy of New Netherland, and slavery in New Netherland. The first in a series of podcasts called “New Netherland Pruations” has been developed and features a chat between Russell Shorto and Charles Gehring.

Financial support from the Dutch Government has enabled us to execute several successful educational programs. Once again, NNI has sponsored workshops to introduce teachers and students to the history and culture of New Netherland. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte participated in a workshop with Senior Scholar Russell Shorto and New York City students from Loyola High School in September at the Museum of the City of New York. A series of three professional development lectures/workshops for teachers were held in New York City, and a workshop for Teachers at SUNY New Paltz to help teachers better understand New Netherland history and the Atlantic Rim was made possible with funds from the Dutch Consulate. A visit from the Consul General of the Netherlands in New York engaged staff of the State Library and the State Archives in a roundtable discussion.

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

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**Halve Maen on Display in the Netherlands**

The replica of Henry Hudson’s ship, the Halve Maen, returned to Albany and the Corning Dock on Friday, September 19. It will reside here until moving to the Netherlands city of Hoorn where it will be on display there for the next three years. Hoorn was a major player in the growth and development of the Dutch East India Company. The Halve Maen will provide a visual representation of the city’s role in history. The New Netherland Museum will remain owner of the ship.

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**Grants and Awards**

- The Clague and Carol Van Slyke 2014 Article Prize was awarded to David Voorhees for his article “English Law through Dutch Eyes: The Leslianer Understanding of the English Legal System in New York,” published in *Opening Statements: Law, Jurisprudence, and the Legacy of Dutch New York*.
- The Hendricks Award Committee chose Jeroen Dewulf’s manuscript “The Pinkster King and the King of Kongo: African-American Performance Culture and the Master-Slave Relationship in Dutch-American Society from New Amsterdam to New York” as the winner of this year’s Hendricks award. A book based on his dissertation will be published in 2015.
- Retired State Archaeologist Paul R. Huey was the recipient of the 2014 Kenney Award for his contributions to the study of Dutch colonial artifacts and his work to increase historical awareness throughout the Hudson Valley. Mr. Huey’s paper “Archaeology of Fort Orange and Beverwijck” is available at [http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/research/essays-and-articles/archaeology-of-fort-orange-and-beverwijck/](http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/research/essays-and-articles/archaeology-of-fort-orange-and-beverwijck/).

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**Emerging Scholars Roundtable Provides Forum for New Research**

The second Emerging Scholars Roundtable was held on Friday, September 19 at the Fort Orange Club. The gathering highlighted five “emerging scholars” Nicholas Cunigan, Megan Cherry, Peter Van Cleave, Danny Noorlander, and Nicole Maskiell (who sadly could not attend the discussion session due to illness) who presented descriptions of their work in progress. Established scholars who provided commentary were Willem Frijhoff, Wim Klooster, Jaap Jacobs, and David Voorhees, as well as Dr. Charles Gehring, Dr. Janny Venema, and Russell Shorto.

All Roundtable attendees then participated in the annual New Netherland Seminar and enjoyed many new opportunities to engage with conference attendees and presenters. The gathering stimulated many new research ideas as well as ways in which a community of New Netherland/Dutch Studies scholars could continue to communicate with each other and stimulate research in the field.

Emerging Scholars group members participated in a panel at the American Historical Association’s conference in January, addressing recent research about New Amsterdam in the broader Atlantic context.

The New York State Historical Society is devoting two of its new journal editions to topics relating to New Netherland history and has called upon NNI for its support.
Staff Lectures, Talks, and Presentations

NNI staff and NNI associates appeared in a number of venues in 2014.

Director of the NNN Dr. Charles Gehring served as commentator at a conference organized by the McNeil Institute entitled "From Conquest to Identity: New Jersey and the Middle Colonies in the Seventeenth Century."

In October, Dr. Gehring and NNI Vice President Marilyn Douglas taped an interview for the oral history project "Story Corp" in conjunction with Family History Week at the New York State Archives.

In September, Dr. Gehring did a "Ted Talk" at the Hudson Opera House, and in November, he was interviewed by Jane Wilcox on her blog radio program "Forget-me-not ancestry." The interview can be accessed at: www.blogradio.com/JaneFWilcox.

Associate Director of the NNN Dr. Jenny Venema presented a talk at the Troy Public Library as part of a discussion of The Island at the Center of the World and discussed her books Kiliaan Van Rensselaer (1586-1634), Designing a New World and Beverwijck, A Dutch Village on the American Frontier, 1632-1664. In September she presented three talks on New Netherland at the Warwick Center as part of its "Road Scholar" program.

Senior Scholar and author of The Island at the Center of the World and Amsterdam: A History of the World's Most Liberal City as well as other acclaimed works, Russell Shorto addressed the Dutch cultural heritage from Amsterdam and its influence on Albany, New York in his presentation "From Amsterdam to Albany" in June in the Huixley Theater at the Cultural Education Center.

Shorto and Dr. Charles Gehring addressed the topic "What's New About New Netherland," for the New-York Historical Society series "History Uncorked: Think and Drink with...". The program was moderated by 2012 Senior Scholar and NNI Education Associate Dennis Maika.

Gehring and artist and Len Tantillo presented a talk illustrated by Tantillo’s depictions of historic New Netherland scenes to educators in the Bronx in May.

NNI Fellow Firth Fabend continues to give presentations and do book signings on New Netherland in a Nutshell. Over 1,300 copies have been sold.

Things to Come

- Submissions for the 2015 Annual Hendricks Award were due February 1, 2015. The designated category for submission is recently published books. The winner will be announced at the Seminar in September.
- The 2015 Seminar will take place Thursday, September 17 through Saturday, September 19. The Association for the Advancement of Dutch Studies and Calvin College will cosponsor the event along with NNI. Assistant Professor of History at Grand Valley State University, David Zwart, and Henk Aay, Emeritus Professor of Geography at Calvin College, will serve on a joint program committee with New Netherland Research Center and NNI representatives.
- The NNI Board has partnered with the Fulbright Center in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, for a student scholar grant to be called the Fulbright-New Netherland Institute Student Scholar Grant. The grant will be awarded to a graduate student in the Netherlands to study at the New Netherland Research Center. Applications were due December 1, 2014. The selection will be announced by the Grants Committee in April 2015.

N NI Website Grows With More Content

The NNI grew with many additions in education, addition of translations, online exhibits, and some new features.

A compilation of the introductions to New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch/New Netherland Documents series, comprising 13 introductions, and Correspondence Volumes XI and XII, and Delaware papers (Dutch Period), 1648-1664, has been posted.

"Fun Reads for Children" was launched in early February. This new section of the website features a series of short fiction and non-fiction reads for elementary and middle school children that take the reader on an imaginary trip to New Netherland. Students learn about a 14-year-old Dutch boy who longs to go to sea, meet people, and visit places of Dutch North America. These nicely illustrated items can be accessed at www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/education/for-students/for-re/.

A "New Netherland Scholars Forum" went online in December, providing an opportunity for scholars to post additions to NNI's on-line New Netherland Bibliography.

Twenty-four scholars are currently members of the Forum. The first exchange lead to the organization of a panel presentation at the American Historical Association annual conference in New York City. Forum participants also submitted additional topics to be discussed at the conference and included in a call for papers for a forthcoming edition of New York History. Papers are currently being prepared for posting on the NNI website in order to solicit comments and suggestions.

Other additions include the Lookermans article and A.J.F. van Laer’s three volumes of minutes of the Court of Albany, Rensselaerwyck and Schenectady.

The first in a series of podcasts, "New Netherland Prayers," features a chat between Russell Shorto and Charles Gehring. It will be available on the website in 2015. More talks will feature Russell Shorto as moderator as well as participant chatting with James Bradley, a noted Native American scholar, and historical artist Len Tantillo. Other chats are anticipated in 2015.

Online Exhibits

In partnership with the Holland Society, NNI is developing an online exhibit on families with New Netherland ties. The exhibit will suggest contexts and resources and provides profiles of early Dutch settlers. The exhibit is expected to be online in 2015.

Other online exhibits include "Indians of New Netherland" by Dr. William Starna, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at SUNY Oneonta and author most recently of From Homeland to New Land: A History of the Mahican Indians, 1600-1830 (2013). Dr. David William Voorhees, Editor of The Papers of Jacob Leisler, and Editor of de Halve Maen: Journal of the Holland Society of New York, is preparing an exhibit on "The Legacy of New Netherland." Both exhibits are expected to be completed by mid 2015.

Website Interest Grows

In the last month, the NNI website has had 29,664 unique page views. This counts visits to individual pages, not entrances to the site. The digital edition of Correspondence 1647–1653 had 355 unique page views, ranking it 7th on the site behind several Dutch American pages.

The most popular page was the Cornelius Vanderbilt bio with 2,993 unique page views. The NNI site is the second listed in a Google search for Cornelius Vanderbilt after Wikipedia. The same is true of a search for Petrus Stuyvesant.
Translation and Cataloging Work Progresses

The important work of translating the early Dutch documents advanced in 2014. Only 9 of the original 25 volumes of records remain to be translated, and all translations to date are now available on the website. Translation of Council Minutes, 1656-1658, volume 8 of the New Netherland Documents has been completed and is expected to be published in 2015. Translation of Correspondence 1659-1660, volume 13 is underway and is expected to be completed in 2015.

Cataloging continues for the Schiltkamp library collection. Meanwhile, all volumes have been transcribed and are expected to be posted to the website in 2015. It is hoped that all remaining volumes of the original manuscripts will be digitized and posted along with their transcriptions and translations on the website over the next couple of years. Thirteen boxes of personal papers, correspondence, documents, and paintings and other items belonging to the Van Rensselaer family have been donated to the New York State Library by Philip Van Rensselaer Tilney. The materials were saved by Florence Van Rensselaer (1865-1957), daughter of Dr. John J. Van Rensselaer. Of note among the items is the last will and testament of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer dated February 1686 in both Dutch and English. The collection is available for research in the Manuscripts Division.

Annual General Meeting

The 2014 annual meeting took place at the historic Van Schaick Country Club in Cohoes. Built beginning in 1735 by Anthony Van Schaick, this residence served as a strategic Revolutionary War camp. Members of the Van Schaick family were invited as special guests. Speakers Dennis Maika and Russell Shorto provided updates on ongoing research and upcoming publications. The 2014 Alice P. Kenney award of $1,000 was presented to retired State Archaeologist Paul Huey for his contributions to the study of Dutch colonial artifacts and his work to increase historical awareness throughout the Hudson Valley. Prior to the meeting, participants enjoyed a tour of the historic grounds and mansion.

Teacher Workshops Bring New Netherland History to the Classroom

Teacher workshops continued to introduce educators and students to the history of New Netherland. At the request of Dutch Consul General Rob de Vos, Prime Minister Mark Rutte participated in a workshop with Senior Scholar Russell Shorto and students from Loyola High School at the Museum of the City of New York in September. Prime Minister Rutte presented a brief introduction to the Netherlands and Dutch history followed by a short lecture on the shared history of Old and New Amsterdam by Russell Shorto, a talk on the positive growth of New Amsterdam in the decade before the English invasion, and Dutch culture and traditions in New Netherland following the negotiated agreement with the English. The event was covered widely in the Dutch press.

A series of three professional development workshops for teachers was held in New York City relating topics directly to the new Common Core Social Studies. The first, entitled “History Uncorked: Old Amsterdam/New Amsterdam,” took place in May at the New-York Historical Society (NYC). Presentations were given by Dr. Charles Gehring, Russell Shorto, and Dr. Dennis Maika, NNI Education Associate. Two more workshops were held at the Museum of the City of New York in November featuring presentations on “Slavery in New Netherland” by Dr. Dennis Maika and on “Religion in New Netherland,” by Dr. Noah Gelfand of the University of Connecticut. All three sessions were well attended and very well received. As a result of the collaboration with NNI, the Museum of the City of New York is in the process of producing a new curriculum guide for teachers and students with assistance from NNI.

With a special grant from the Dutch Consulate, “Negotiating the Surrender of New Amsterdam: A Role-Playing Workshop for Teachers on the 350th Commemoration of the English Invasion of New Netherland, August-September, 1664” took place in September at SUNY New Paltz.

A unique collaboration between NNI, SUNY New Paltz, and Ulster County BOCES, the workshop served to help teachers better understand New Netherland history and the Atlantic Rim - particularly the Dutch transfer of authority to the English in 1664.

The program featured historians Lou Roper of SUNY New Paltz; Jaag Jacobs of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland; and Dennis Maika of the New Netherland Institute; three graduate students from SUNY New Paltz; Mr. Sherman Farber, a curriculum specialist from Ulster County BOCES; and 24 teachers from Ulster County schools. All the materials are available on the NNI website.

New Netherland History Part of New York Common Core

In April 2014, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) released its curriculum (the NYS K-12 Common Core Social Studies Framework) which firmly establishes the study of New Netherland in grades 4, 7, and 11. A “Resource Toolkit” to introduce content related to New Netherland history is under development. According to Patricia Polan, Associate of Instructional Services for Social Studies at NYSED, the next phase of curriculum development will be to create a Social Studies "Resource Toolkit." According to Ms. Polan, this is where specific New Netherland content can be introduced as exemplars for teachers.