



NEW NETHERLAND INSTITUTE

Annual Report to the Members

Changed the organization's name from Friends of New Netherland to New Netherland Institute, December 9, 2005:

- Expanded purpose to enhance awareness of the Dutch history of colonial America by supporting the translation and publication of early Dutch documents through the New Netherland Project and to increase public awareness of the influence of our Dutch heritage on the institutions and culture of our country
- Revised and updated the By-Laws to reflect the changes in the organization; see our website at www.nnp.org or www.newnetherlandinstitute.org

Appointed a Development Officer in March, 2006: James F. Sefcik, retired as director of the Louisiana State Museum in 2004 where he served for 17 years. During that time, he raised more than \$65 million for a variety of projects. He directed more than half a dozen capital campaigns of \$1 million or more during his 30-year museum career, which also included employment at the New York State Museum, the Chrysler Museum, and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. He has been involved in countless exhibitions as curator, development officer, public relations officer, and director. Through personal contact and articles in the *Marcus*, he will provide members with various ways of giving to support NNP and the activities of NNI, for which an annual **\$300,000** investment is needed.

Established a collaborative affiliation between the New Netherland Institute and Siena College to integrate the Institute's expertise and ac-

tivities relating to the early Dutch history of colonial America and the Atlantic world with the College's academic programs and campus environment. With Siena, we are investigating the following:

- Development of a workshop for high school history teachers on the early Dutch colonial period in America
- Possibility of a course on reading 17th-century Dutch
- NNP staff lecturing at Siena

A smashing success is how one attendee described *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. The program was sponsored in part by *De Nederlandse Taalunie* (€9000), the Peck Stacpoole Foundation (\$10,000), and The Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York (\$800). There were over 200 participants, 67 speakers, 19 sessions, 2 workshops, 8 local events, 2 dinners, a reception, and a NNI/VIP luncheon for 10 people. Highlights from participants' comments include the breadth and depth of session offerings, the knowledge and scholarship of the speakers, the camaraderie that developed over the three days, and the exposure to information from other disciplines.

Thirty-five papers from the Conference have been submitted for publication. Both the American Association for Netherlandic Studies and the New Netherland Institute have established evaluation criteria and review teams.

The 2006 Alice P. Kenney Award was presented on June 9 to Russell Shorto, author and contributing writer at *the New York Times Magazine*, in conjunction with the joint conference. Russell's book *The Island at the Center of the World: the Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan & the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America* has been instrumental in bringing the story of New Netherland to the general public and encouraging interest in this period.

Academic support through the Doris G. Quinn Foundation

■ **Quinn Visiting Professorship:**

Dr. Jaap Jacobs, University of Amsterdam, is the first Quinn Visiting Professor. He is at Cornell for the fall semester of 2006 and will be at the University of Pennsylvania for spring 2007. His salary is paid in part by the two academic institutions and the Quinn Foundation through the New Netherland Institute.

■ **Quinn Fellowship**, a program in partnership between the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and the New Netherland Institute.

Jeroen van den Hurk, the inaugural Quinn fellow, worked with the New Netherland Project from September to December 2005. He completed the requirements for his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware with his dissertation entitled "Imagining New Netherland: Origins and Survival of Netherlandic Architecture in Old New York, 1614-1776."

Noah Gelfand, a Ph D candidate at NYU whose dissertation will be entitled "A People Within and Without: International Jewish Commerce and Community in the 17th and 18th Century Dutch Atlantic World," is the second Quinn Foundation Fellow for the 2006-07 academic year.

■ **Quinn-Library and Quinn-Archives Research Residencies 2007**

With the support from the Doris Quinn

Foundation, the New Netherland Institute and the New York State Library will offer a research residency grant of \$2500 in 2007 for specialized research in Dutch-related documents and printed materials at the New York State Library.

The New Netherland Institute and the New York State Archives will also offer a \$2500 research residency grant to facilitate research on New Netherland and on the Dutch Colonial Atlantic World using primary documents in the NYS Archives. Holders of these research residencies will spend up to a year in Albany, New York, working in the rich collections of the New Netherland Project, the New York State Library and the New York State Archives. Applications are due January 15, 2007

Additions to the corpus of translated material on New Netherland

■ The translation of Volume two of the Fort Orange records by Dr. Gehring and Dr. Venema has been completed. After indexing, the volume will be published by Syracuse University Press and dedicated to the Peck Stacpoole Foundation in recognition of their generous support of the Project.

■ Adriaen van der Donck's *Description of New Netherland* has been updated by Charles Gehring and William Starna and is under contract to be published by the University of Nebraska Press next year.

■ Dr. Martha D. Shattuck has contracted with the New Netherland Institute to edit documents known as the "New Netherland Papers," held in the *Bontemantel Collection* at the New York Public Library. The collection consists of about 35 documents: 12 of them have been summarized in Stokes' *Iconography*; the petition from New Amsterdam Court for permission to appoint a scout 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. I*. Dr. Shattuck's introduction will provide an historical background for their content. An index and

glossary will make such information suitable for publication by NNI. Donations are being solicited for publication of this volume, which will be dedicated to the memory of Peter J. Paulson, former President of the Friends of New Netherland. (www.nnp.org)

■ The first four volumes of the *New York Colonial Documents* (Van Laer translations), now out of print, were scanned by Kirtas Technologies, Victor, NY. Volunteer Celia Diamond is now correcting the scanning errors and typos in the first volume. Then the text will be updated and corrected by Dr. Gehring. Eventually it will be available on the website, where it will be searchable and printable.

The New Netherland Project is in the second year of a three-year matching grant funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The estimated need for matching funds in 2007 is \$75,000. A new grant application has been submitted to NEH for 2008 - 2011. If successful, this grant will require NNI to provide \$150,000 in matching funds to support Project staff.

\$400,000 four-part project for 2009, coordinated by Jim Sefcik, will shed much needed light on New Netherland and the Dutch. NNI seeks funding from major Dutch-American companies, foundations, and private individuals. Over \$100,000 has already been secured.

■ Produce *Shining the Light on New Netherland*, a first-rate quality traveling exhibition to be shown throughout the former New Netherland area and beyond that will introduce people of all ages to something important but not well known. Exhibits present history far more effectively than any other medium. This exhibit will reach those who do not normally read history books or attend lecture series. Further, it will present material that is not readily available to the average person and will go far beyond what is offered in schools. To our knowledge, no other institution is developing an exhibition on the Dutch in the New World, from

Connecticut to Delaware, including Beverwijck and New Amsterdam.

■ Co-sponsor *Discovery and Invention: the Worlds of Henry Hudson*, an exhibit of the Museum of the City of New York (MCNY). This will include the assistance of Dr. Charles Gehring and NNI's help with funding and content.

■ Support and facilitate the completion of a documentary DVD, *Illuminating New York's Dutch Past*, about the New Netherland Project and its connection with modern times. This video will provide some historical background about New Netherland, explain why these documents are unique and important, and relate the journey they took from 1674 to the present. It will explain the importance of using documentary evidence and delineate the necessary skills and process of translation. It will describe what kind of material can be found in these early records, with examples of the fascinating information that has already been uncovered. Finally, the documentary will dispel some of the 'Dutch folk myths' and explain some of the misrepresentations of the Dutch in literature, history books, social history, and the like.

■ Produce a *history/exhibit book* that will focus on the history of the Dutch-American heritage, with an introduction by Russell Shorto, author of *The Island at the Center of the World* . . . Prominent authors and historians working in the field will contribute a series of essays, with emphasis on previously undeveloped topics. The publication is envisioned as a *Liber Amicorum*: similar to a *Festschrift* in praise of a person, this volume will be in praise of New Netherland.

In conjunction with the plans for an Albany Convention Center, NNI is part of an **Ad Hoc Committee** to ensure that the archaeological and historical significance of the proposed site for the Center will be recognized and preserved. The Committee is planning an information session to which historical societies, preservation groups, and the general public

in the Albany area will be invited. NNI, along with the Historic Albany Foundation and other organizations, will co-sponsor the event, to be held in Albany. The keynote speaker will be NNI member James Bradley, whose book *Before Albany* will be published in 2007. Part of the information packet for this event will include documentation of what existed at the site in the 17th century. Much of this information will be based on *Beverwijck*, by the New Netherland Project's Associate Director Dr. Janny Venema.

Other New Netherland Institute activities:

- The Institute membership brochure and fact sheets on the New Netherland Institute and the New Netherland Project have been revised and updated by Elisabeth Funk.

- Membership has grown to 370 members. Sixty members joined this year. They live in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and the Netherlands.

- Membership will now again be based on a calendar year. Memberships that are up for renewal during 2007 will be considered as paid in full through December 31, 2007. New members who join in the last quarter of any calendar year will be considered as paid in full through the entire following year.

- Membership Meeting and Program, Saturday, October 21, 2006, at Siena College, where Charles Gehring, Janny Venema, and Martha Shattuck described their work of transcribing, translating and indexing the official 17th century Dutch colonial documents of New York. Over 6500 pages are now available in 18 published volumes in the *New*

Netherland Document Series. A DVD of this program is available for \$ 12, including shipping and handling.

- Communication with NNI membership and general public worldwide

Web site www.nnp.org or www.newnetherlandinstitute.org has been completely revised and updated by our web team, Howard and Elisabeth Funk.

NEW-MARC-L (new in 2006): An announce ment and information e-mail list launched to provide a source of information about New Netherland-related events, activities, conferences, research, and the like, that occur outside the quarterly time frame of *De Nieu Nederlansc Marcurius* newsletter. This service is not only for *Marcurius* subscribers and members of the New Netherland Institute, but also for anyone interested in the Dutch in the Atlantic world.

De *Nieu Nederlansc Marcurius* quarterly news letter: Members receive a hard copy. Issues from 1998 to the present are available on our web site. Issues from 1985 to 1998 are being scanned and will be available on the web in 2007.

E- Discussion group: members-only facility for the discussion of topics broadly related to New Netherland.

Please direct questions or comments about this report to Marilyn E. Douglas, Vice President, Board of Trustees of the New Netherland Institute, at 518 408 1212 or by email at mdouglas@mail.nysed.gov