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Editors' Introduction

D.L. Noorlander, Thomas Beal, Susan Goodier

N*ew York History* has been an important forum for reflective essays and original research on New Netherland and Dutch New York for many years. The New Netherland Institute currently lists in its online bibliography at least twenty-six articles that this journal published between the 1970s and today.¹ Among them we find, for example, David Steven Cohen's influential essay on the colony's ethnic makeup, "How Dutch were the Dutch of New Netherland?" (1981), and Joyce Goodfriend's excellent historiographic essay, "Writing/Righting Dutch Colonial History" (1999).² More recently, *New York History* commemorated the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's 1609 voyage with a special issue dedicated to Dutch topics. And in 2014 the Editors organized a panel of seven experts from across the United States and Canada for our first-ever roundtable discussion on the current state of New Netherland studies.³

In this issue we continue our long-time commitment to Dutch American scholarship with twice the usual content: seven essays, plus book reviews, an exhibit review, and a glossary of potentially-confusing Dutch terms. The issue opens with an essay by Jeroen van den Hurk, who writes about early Dutch activities on Manhattan Island in "Plan Versus Execution: The 'Ideal City' of New Amsterdam." Van den Hurk examines the history of European town planning and how the Dutch West India Company drew on various influences from the Italian, Dutch,

1. The NNI bibliography is not comprehensive. It is missing, for example, Irmgard Carras, "Who Cared? The Poor in 17th-Century New Amsterdam, 1628–1664," *New York History* 85, no. 3 (Summer 2004), 247–263, and Noah Gelfand, "A Transatlantic Approach to Understanding the Formation of a Jewish Community in New Netherland and New York," *New York History* 89, no. 4 (Fall 2008), 375–395. A thorough comparison would probably turn up more missing titles. See <http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/research/new-netherland-bibliography/> (accessed February 18, 2016).

2. David Steven Cohen, "How Dutch Were the Dutch of New Netherland?" *New York History* 62, no. 1 (Jan. 1981): 49–60; Joyce Goodfriend, "Writing/Righting Dutch Colonial History," *New York History* 80, no. 1 (Jan. 1999): 5–28.

3. The special Dutch issue was vol. 89, no. 4 (Fall 2008). See also "Roundtable: The Past, Present, and Future of New Netherland Studies," *New York History* 95, no. 3 (Summer 2014): 446–490.

and Spanish worlds to design a colonial capital that did not, in the end, resemble the original schemes and proposals. The next three essays describe religious and social developments somewhat later in the colony's history. In "Hot Pestilential and Unheard-Of Fevers, Illnesses, and Torments': Days of Fasting and Prayer in New Netherland," Jaap Jacobs uses Peter Stuyvesant's proclamations about fast and prayer days to explore the events and developments that colonists believed to be especially important. Jacobs also argues that fast and prayer days were not strictly Calvinist in nature. Rather, they built on a widespread belief in divine providence and fostered a kind of non-denominational, civic religion.

Harm Zwarts writes about religion and the economy in "Reformed Deaconries as Providers of Credit in Dutch Settlements." The deaconries did not have access to the same investment opportunities as their counterparts in Europe, Zwarts shows, but by lending money to colonists they created their own markets and grew their funds gradually through the receipt of interest payments. In Zwarts's account, the deaconry serves to illustrate, on the one hand, the successful recreation of Dutch institutions in America, and on the other, the need for flexibility and adaptation in a colonial setting. Deacons sometimes used their funds on behalf of poor widows, who are also the main topic of the next essay, "Her Humble Estate': Poverty and Widowhood in Seventeenth-Century New York," by Abby Shelton. Shelton uses colonial court records to study the experiences of three different women, all widows, who did not have the resources and family networks to support themselves after the death of a husband. Despite some legal and economic advantages over women in similar situations in the English world, Shelton demonstrates that Dutch women were not always prepared for the responsibilities of widowhood and could descend into poverty.

Our last three essays cover Dutch events and issues that arose after the English conquest of 1664, when New Netherland became New York. People sometimes forget that the Dutch returned briefly with their own conquering fleet in 1673, and that is the subject that Artyom Anikin takes up in "The Lost Soldier of Orange: A Brief Biography of Governor Anthony Colve." As the title suggests, the essay is not just about the invasion. Anikin focuses instead on Colve's youth in the Dutch province of Zeeland, his adventures in Suriname, and especially his political activi-

ties and allegiances in the Netherlands, which shed light on the choices that he later made when he became governor of New Netherland/New York. Colve may have lost the colony again in 1674, but in “Rescuing the Albany Records from the Fire: Redeeming Francis Adrian van der Kemp’s Notorious Attempt to Translate the Records of New Netherland,” Peter D. Van Cleave shows that people of Dutch descent would continue to influence this region for centuries in the future. Van Cleave tells the story of Francis Adrian van der Kemp, a Dutch American who tried and mostly failed (critics said) to translate the Dutch colonial records during the administration of Governor De Witt Clinton (1817–1822). Van Cleave argues, however, that Van der Kemp never intended a pure translation and should not be seen as a simple translator. Far more than that, Van der Kemp was writing one of the first histories of New Netherland, anticipating the themes of future scholars and making an argument for the importance of the Dutch in creating the United States.

Finally, Paul R. Huey explores the Dutch archaeological record and opportunities for future archaeological research in “The Archaeology of New Netherland: Why It Matters.” The Editors tried to be consistent and include only Dutch topics in this issue, but in the end we chose to include a mix of Dutch and non-Dutch material in the book review section. Reviews focus on the history of the Hudson River Valley, kinship networks in New Netherland and the Dutch Atlantic, and the solving of a Native American identity mystery. New York City is the locale of three other reviews, one on money and banking in New York City, another on Black and Latino coalitions, and one on a communist dancer at the famous Cotton Club in Harlem. This issue also includes Debra Jackson’s exhibit review of *Jacob A. Riis: Revealing New York’s Other Half* (now through March 16, 2016) and *Activist New York* (ongoing), both at the Museum of the City of New York. In her essay, Jackson examines the compelling way in which the first exhibit traces Riis’s story and the long-term impact of his work, especially his photographs. The second exhibit reveals how activists helped shape modern New York.

As always, many different people contributed to this issue of *New York History*. The Editors would first like to thank the various essay writers and book reviewers, all of whom exercised great patience as we worked sometimes a bit slowly to produce a substantial double issue. Our Research

Assistants also deserve recognition: Sam Benedict, Cody Martel, Natalie Newton, Hunter Reed, Alexandria Robison, and Zachary Utter learned far more about New Netherland than they probably expected when they accepted the position. Their critiques and suggestions were insightful and useful, and we thank them. If readers have questions about the content of these pages and questions or suggestions for the journal in general, please contact us by electronic mail at publications@nysha.org.