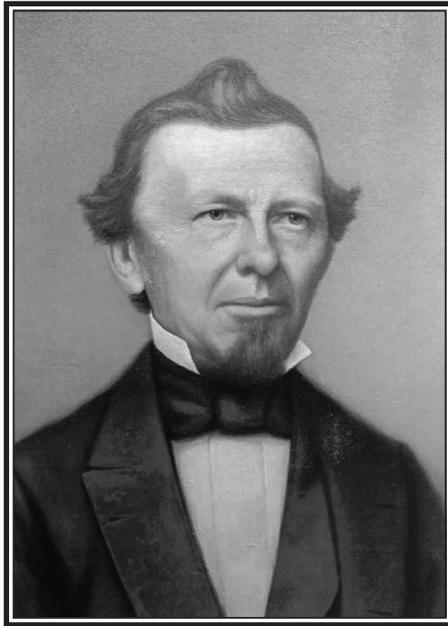


A. C. Van Raalte Institute

Annual Report 2009-2010

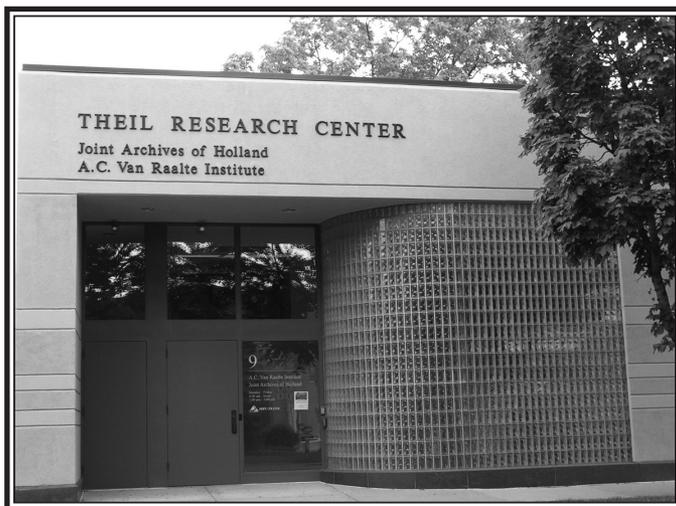


Rev. Dr. Albertus Christiaan Van Raalte

**Hope College
Holland, Michigan
2010**

A. C. Van Raalte Institute

Annual Report 2009-2010



**Hope College
Holland, Michigan
2010**

Copyright 2010 Van Raalte Press
All rights reserved

A. C. Van Raalte Institute, Hope College

Van Raalte Press is a division of Hope College Publishing

Offices located in: Theil Research Center
 9 East 10th Street
 Holland, MI 49423

Mailing address: PO Box 9000
 Holland, MI 49422-9000

Phone: (616) 395-7678

Fax: (616) 395-7120

Email: vanraalte@hope.edu

Website: <http://www.hope.edu/vri>

Jacob E. Nyenhuis, Director

JoHannah Smith, Office Manager and Editorial Assistant



Annual Report 2009-2010
©2010

Contents

List of Illustrations	iv
A Message from the Director	1
Tentative List of Speakers and Presentations for the ACVR Bicentennial Conference	13
In Memoriam	16
Dedication	18
Reports	19
Donald J. Bruggink	19
Robert P. Swierenga	22
Excerpt from <i>Garbio</i>	23
Earl Wm. Kennedy	24
Excerpt from <i>Classis Notes</i> , 1848-1858	25
Nella Kennedy	27
Jacob E. Nyenhuis	29
Adjunct and Honorary Members	31
Peter Ester	31
Hans Krabbendam	33
J. P. Verhave	35
Excerpt from “A Norse and Dutch Friendship”	37
George Harinck	38
Excerpt from “Letters by Nicholas M. Steffens”	38
Publications and Presentations	39
Visiting Research Fellows Program and Lecture Series	43
Applications Invited	45
Van Raalte Institute Staff (2009-2010)	46
Mission Statement	48

Illustrations

	Rev. Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte—portrait in middle life <i>(Joint Archives of Holland)</i>	Cover
	Theil Research Center	Title page
Fig. 1	JoHannah Smith	2
Fig. 2	Michael Douma	3
Fig. 3	Leon van den Broeke	4
Fig. 4	Rein Nauta <i>(Tilburg University)</i>	4
Fig. 5	James C. Kennedy	5
Fig. 6	Brigid Maniates	6
Fig. 7	Kimberly Boyd	6
Fig. 8	Washington DC book presentation event	7
Fig. 9	The Dutch Organizing Committee for the ACVR Bicentennial Conference	8
Fig. 10	Mayor of Ommen welcomes Jacob E. Nyenhuis	9
Fig. 11	<i>Landgoed Het Laer</i> , site of the Dutch Conference	9
Fig. 12	Van Raaltheuis, exterior	11
Fig. 13	Van Raaltheuis, interior	12
Fig. 14	Bill and Nella Kennedy	18
Fig. 15	Don Bruggink	19
Fig. 16	<i>Freedom on the Horizon</i>	20
Fig. 17	<i>Under the Cross</i>	20
Fig. 18	Bob Swierenga	22
Fig. 19	Earl Wm. Kennedy	24
Fig. 20	Nella Kennedy	27
Fig. 21	Van Hinte diary <i>(Peter Ester)</i>	27
Fig. 22	Jack Nyenhuis	29
Fig. 23	Elton Bruins	30
Fig. 24	Peter Ester	31
Fig. 25	Hans Krabbendam with Princess Margriet	33
Fig. 26	<i>Four Centuries</i>	33
Fig. 27	J. P. Verhave and family	35
Fig. 28	George Harinck	38
	Dutch tiles <i>(Don Bruggink)</i>	26, 42, 49

All photos are VRI file photos except where noted

A Message from the Director

Greetings from all of us members of the Van Raalte Institute! We are pleased to present to you our annual accounting of the work of the institute for the period from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010. It was a challenging year, a year of loss, a year of transition, but we end it with hope and confidence.

Loss of a Beloved Colleague

The *In Memoriam* following this message offers a summary of the life and work of Karen G. Schakel, but I will note here that her brief illness and death in December 2009 brought great sorrow to all of us, most of whom had worked with her for a decade or longer. She was much more than a colleague, for she was also a trusted and trustworthy friend to us all. We knew that we depended heavily upon her for her knowledge and expertise, but after her death we realized even more fully how vital her skills were to our success, both individually and collectively. *Requiescat in pace.*

We chose not to undertake a search for a successor to Karen for several months. During that interim period, we were assisted most ably by Katherine Mervau, the retired executive assistant to the president. Kathy did a marvelous job of keeping our operation on an even keel and she also completed the monumental task of organizing and labeling thousands of files for Elton Bruins and me. We are deeply indebted to Kathy for her efficient and effective management of the office during her three-month tenure with us.

Appointment of a New Senior Research Fellow

I am pleased to announce the appointment in December 2009 of Cornelia B. “Nella” Kennedy as Senior Research Fellow and Official Translator for the Van Raalte Institute. Nella has served for many years as a translator for the institute, but she has also carried on her own research projects. Prior to her retirement from teaching, she served as an instructor of both art history and Dutch language, as well as archivist, at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. She has served as an advisor to and curator of exhibitions at the Holland Museum, most notably the development of four new Dutch galleries and the exhibition of paintings by Dutch artists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries from the collection of Dr. Jan and Mary Ann Beekhuis, who have donated over two dozen of their paintings to the museum.

Nella was co-editor of *Dutch-American Arts and Letters in Historical Perspective* (Van Raalte Press, 2008), a collection of papers from the Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies (AADAS) held at Hope College in June 2007. She is also co-editor of the forthcoming *The American Diary of Jacob Van Hinte*, who was the author of the classic immigrant study *Nederlanders in Amerika* (Noordhoff, 1928).

Welcome to our New Office Manager and Editorial Assistant



Fig. 1 JoHannah Smith

On 5 April 2010 JoHannah Smith joined our staff as Office Manager and Editorial Assistant. A 1983 graduate of Hope College, JoHannah had spent the first two years of her collegiate education at Ferris State University. After graduation, she earned a secondary English/language arts teaching certificate from the University of Houston, where she began a master's degree program. From 1985 to 1988 she taught English and reading to seventh grade students in the inner city of Houston, then taught English and American literature for a year at Holland High School before taking

time off to raise and home school her four children. Along the way, she also gained experience in office management through work in banking and insurance.

JoHannah's professed passion for history is evident on a daily basis, as is her enthusiasm for editing. She has helped to edit two books and is already assisting on a third one. She is also serving as the editor of this Annual Report. After mastering—to the degree that anyone can—the fourteenth and fifteenth editions of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, she is ready to tackle the new sixteenth edition. A self-starter and quick learner, she is proving to be an excellent member of our staff.

Visiting Research Fellows Program

In 2003 we launched the Visiting Research Fellows Program, and since then we have typically brought in two fellows each year. A few years later, a grant from the Netherland-America Foundation enabled us to establish the NAF Visiting Research Fellowship program (see next section).



Fig. 2 Michael Douma

Michael Douma, doctoral candidate in history at Florida State University, former student research assistant at the Joint Archives of Holland, and former research assistant at the Van Raalte Institute, was awarded a visiting research fellowship for summer 2010. This fellowship was intended to enable him to complete his research for his dissertation, *The Making and Evolution of Dutch American Identities*. A 2004 graduate of Hope College, Douma served as a curatorial intern at the New Bedford (Massachusetts) Whaling Museum in fall 2004, and then returned to Hope as a

research assistant to Dr. Robert P. Swierenga until his enrolment at FSU in fall 2005. He earned an MA in history in 2006 from Florida State University, where he has served as both a grading assistant and a graduate instructor. He is the author of *Veneklasen Brick: A Family, an Industry, and a Unique Nineteenth Century Dutch Architectural Movement in Michigan* (Eerdmans, 2005) and numerous articles in journals and newspapers. He spent last year in the Netherlands as a Fulbright Scholar. His basic research question for his dissertation and for his residency at the institute is: “How did Dutch American identities originate, persist, and evolve?” He will deliver his required public lecture, *Dutch Americans and the Rise of Heritage Studies*, at Hope College on 3 December 2010. See the “Lecture Series” section for more information.

Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellowship

Thanks to funding from the Dutch American Council, we were able to continue this very valuable program. Last year I announced the selection of two new NAF Visiting Research Fellows for 2009-10, Dr. C. Leon van den Broeke and Dr. Rein Nauta.

Dr. van den Broeke spent September and October 2009 at the institute to pursue research on the Reverend Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte and his role as a leader of Classis in both the Netherlands and here in Holland, Michigan. As one of the founding fathers of the Secession of 1834 in the Netherlands, Van Raalte was a leader and church organizer, serving as pastor of several churches and as president and clerk of Classis in the Netherlands. Van Raalte took this experience with him when he emigrated to the US, where he founded Holland in West Michigan in 1847.

Dr. van den Broeke undertook an ecclesiological, church historical, and church political comparison of the Classis of Nieuwleusen/Zwolle and the Classis of Ommen in the Netherlands with the Classis of Holland in Michigan. His research addressed four questions: What was the influence of Van Raalte in classis matters? Did he bring his Dutch experience to the Holland Classis? What was the Church Order basis of these classes? Did Van Raalte institute the Classis of Holland?



Fig. 3 Leon van den Broeke

Dr. van den Broeke is pastor of the Federating Protestant Church of Sint Pancras. He also serves as Assistant Professor of Religion, Law, and Society (including Church Polity) at VU University Amsterdam. He has given numerous lectures on church order, classis, women in the church, and the Christian life, both in the US and in the Netherlands. He received his doctorate in 2005 from VU University Amsterdam and was awarded the Albert A. Smith Fellowship at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey in 2007. He also helped to organize the Colonial Clergy Conference, which was held at Hope College while he was in residence at the institute (see below).

He delivered his public address, *A. C. Van Raalte as a Churchman*, on 12 October 2009. An expanded version of his lecture is forthcoming from the Van Raalte Press under the title, *'Pope of the Classis'? The Leadership of Albertus C. Van Raalte in Dutch and American Classes*.

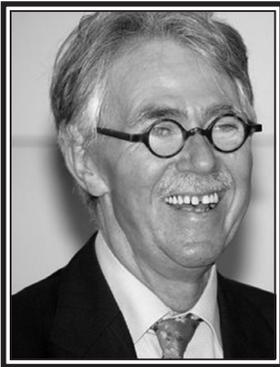


Fig. 4 Rein Nauta

We had anticipated welcoming **Dr. Nauta** in May 2010 for a two-month residency, but he found it necessary to request a postponement of his appointment. As a result, we now expect him to be here in late spring 2011.

Dr. Rein Nauta is Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Psychology and Psychology of Religion at the Department of Religious Studies and Theology, Faculty of Humanities, University of Tilburg, the Netherlands. The theme of his research project is *Religious Leadership and Cultural Change*. He proposes to complete “a

comparative analysis, at least in its intended effects, of the development of an immigrant town [comprised] of Dutch settlers, dominated in its spiritual culture by the Reformed tradition, into a pluralistic, multi-ethnic, religiously diverse modern American city, in relation to recent developments in the Netherlands.” He intends to focus primarily on development during the final quarter of the twentieth century.

Appointment of Honorary Research Fellow



Fig. 5 James C. Kennedy

Last year I also reported that we had welcomed Dr. George Harinck, Dr. Hans Krabbendam, and Dr. J. P. Verhave as our first Honorary Research Fellows, with all of them appointed in February 2009. I am pleased to announce that they have been joined by **Dr. James C. Kennedy**, Professor of Modern European History at the University of Amsterdam. Dr. Kennedy is a former tenured associate professor of history at Hope College and former research fellow of the Van Raalte Institute. He has a number of ongoing research projects, including the co-authorship of the Sesquicentennial History

of Hope College, which is to be published in 2016. He has already co-authored (with Caroline Simon) a partial history of Hope College, *Can Hope Endure?* (Eerdmans, 2005).

We are very pleased to have all four of them as honorary members of our staff and we look forward to active engagement with them in the years ahead. Reports on their scholarly activities are included in the “Adjunct and Honorary Members” section.

Student Research Assistants

During the past year we had the assistance of two fine research assistants: Kimberly Boyd, a senior from Westlake, Ohio, who graduated in May with a double major in biology and classics; and Brigid Maniates, a junior originally from Chicago but now from Muskegon, Michigan, who has a double major in history and classics. Brigid worked part-time for us over the summer, assisting Professor Ester on his Dutch entrepreneurs project, and will continue with us during the 2010-11 academic year. She has

proven to be a superb researcher, both in original documents and in the use of the Internet to obtain vital information and photographs.



Fig. 6 Brigid Maniates



Fig. 7 Kimberly Boyd

400 Years of Dutch-American Relations

The celebration of the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's arrival on Manhattan Island in September 1609 was observed with fanfare in New York in September 2009. Dutch royalty and other dignitaries were present at this momentous occasion. At the celebration on Governor's Island, New York City, Robert P. Swierenga delivered an invited address.

In observance of that significant milestone, a major publication was released: *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009*.^{*} Contributors include our colleague Bob Swierenga and honorary colleagues George Harinck, James Kennedy, and Hans Krabbendam, as well as our former research assistant, Michael Douma. The Van Raalte Institute was pleased to be one of the sponsors of this international project.

Present at the book's launch at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, Zeeland, the Netherlands, were our Adjunct Research Professor, Peter Ester, and our 2010 Visiting Research Fellow, Michael Douma, who was in the Netherlands on a Fulbright Scholarship. I was privileged to join Hans Krabbendam and his co-authors in Washington DC for the presentation of the book to the Dutch Ambassador, Her Excellency Renée Jones-Bos.

^{*} Hans Krabbendam, Cornelis A. Van Minnen, and Giles Scott-Smith, eds., *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009* (Amsterdam:Uitgeverij Boom/Albany:State University of New York Press, 2009)

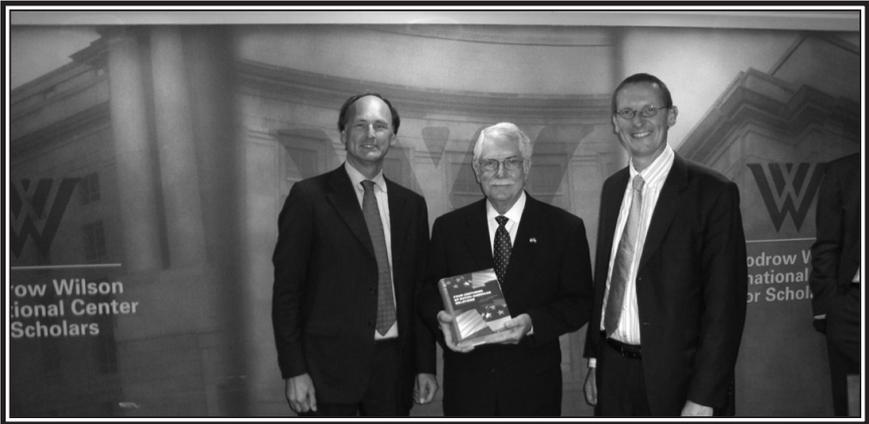


Fig. 8 Roosevelt Study Center Director Cornelis van Minnen (left) and Assistant Director Hans Krabbendam (right) present a copy of Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations to Jack Nyenhuis at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC, September 2009

Conference on Dutch Colonial Clergy

On 27 and 28 September 2009 the Van Raalte Institute and Western Theological Seminary co-hosted the first phase of *Colonial Clergy Conference: Dutch Traditions and American Realities*. This two-site conference was concluded on 24 October at First Reformed Church of New Brunswick, New Jersey. Other sponsors of the conference were the Collegiate Church of New York, the Reformed Church Center at New Brunswick Seminary, Reformed Church Archives, and the Roosevelt Study Center of Middelburg, Zeeland, the Netherlands.

This conference was planned as part of the larger celebration of the 400th anniversary of Hudson's arrival described above. A lead organizer of the conference and co-editor of the resulting collection of essays was our 2009 NAF Visiting Research Fellow, Leon van den Broeke, who presented a paper, *Rudolphus Varick, 1645-1694*, at both sites. Other presenters included our colleague Earl Wm. Kennedy and our first Visiting Research Fellow and current Honorary Research Fellow, Hans Krabbendam, Assistant Director of the Roosevelt Study Center.

Looking Ahead to A. C. Van Raalte's 200th Birthday

In October 2009 we initiated planning for the bicentennial of the birth of Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, who was born on 17 October 1811. As part of the celebration, the Van Raalte Institute is organizing a bilateral international conference on Van Raalte and his contributions to church and society, *Albertus C. Van Raalte, Leader and Liaison*. The first phase of the conference will be held at Hope College on 24-25 October 2011 and the second phase on 3-4 November 2011 in Ommen, Overijssel, the Netherlands, where Van Raalte served as pastor from 1838 to 1844. Van Raalte also started theological training in his home in Ommen: this humble beginning led to the founding of the Kampen Theological University.

Dr. George Harinck, Professor of History at VU University Amsterdam and Kampen Theological University, as well as honorary research fellow at the Van Raalte Institute, chairs the committee responsible for organizing the Ommen phase of the conference; he will also serve with me as co-editor of the collection of essays that will result from this conference. Other members of the organizing committee are Peter Ester, Hans Krabbendam, Leon van den Broeke, and Gerrit te Rietstap, secretary of the Van Raalte House Foundation.



Fig. 9 VRI Director Nyenhuis at a meeting in June 2010 in Landgoed Het Laer, Ommen, Overijssel, the Netherlands, with the organizing committee for the Van Raalte Bicentennial Conference to be held in Ommen in November 2011. Left to right: George Harinck, Leon van den Broeke, Jack Nyenhuis, Peter Ester, Gerrit te Rietstap, Hans Krabbendam.



Fig. 10 Burgemeester Gerrit Jan Kok, Mayor of the City of Ommen, welcomes VRI Director Nyenhuis to a meeting in June 2010

It was my privilege and my pleasure to meet with this organizing committee in early June. As a group, we also met with Burgemeester Gerrit Jan Kok, *Gemeente Ommen* (Mayor of the City of Ommen). We visited the proposed site for the conference and the two hotels at which guests and participating scholars will be lodged. Ommen is a charming town, making it an attractive place for Hope College alumni living in Europe and others who wish to attend the conference.

Sponsors of the conference include: the Van Raalte Institute, *Historisch Documentatiecentrum Vrije Universiteit* (Historical Documentation Center of VU University Amsterdam), *Archief- en Documentatiecentrum Kampen* (Archive and Document Center Kampen), and *Stichting Van Raaltehuis* (Van Raalte House Foundation). We expect to add further sponsors during the coming year.

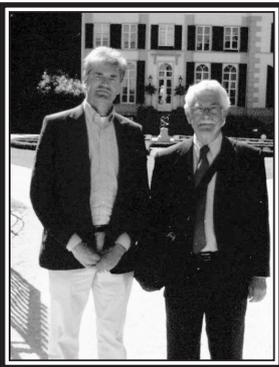


Fig. 11 Co-chairs George Harinck and Jacob E. Nyenhuis in front of Landgoed Het Laer, Ommen, Overijssel, the Netherlands, site of the 2011 Van Raalte Bicentennial Conference

The site chosen for the Ommen conference is the elegant *Landgoed Het Laer*, a restored seventeenth-century estate home. A program brochure will be produced and distributed next year well in advance of the conference, but we invite you, dear reader, to reserve the dates now, so you can join with us to celebrate the life and contributions of our city's Founding Father.

A tentative list of speakers and presentations follows this report, and other plans for the observance of Van Raalte's bicentennial are described in the next section.

Dutch Heritage Coordinating Council (DHCC)

In February 2009 President Emeritus Gordon J. Van Wylen and other members of the Heritage Board invited a group of us to a meeting to be held in March 2009 to explore the idea of establishing a council to coordinate efforts of all the local organizations dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Dutch heritage. On 22 July 2009 this group decided to move forward to establish such an organization. On 11 August 2009 the Dutch Heritage Coordinating Council was founded, with five founding organizations: Holland Historic Trust, Joint Archives of Holland, Tulip Time, Van Raalte Institute, and Zeeland Historical Society. I serve as the official representative of the Van Raalte Institute, but Elton Bruins and Nella Kennedy are also on the council as public members.

The stated mission of the DHCC is “to provide a forum to further the preservation and promotion of Dutch Heritage in the Greater Holland/Zeeland Area.” The goals of the DHCC and further information about the council can be found on their website.*

At our meeting of 18 January 2010 the DHCC accepted my proposal that we offer to Holland Mayor Kurt Dykstra and to Hope College President James E. Bultman our services as the planning committee for the community’s celebration of the Van Raalte bicentennial. That offer was subsequently accepted and the council is developing multiple ideas about how best to observe this occasion.

Among the ideas planned or under consideration are:

- Exhibitions in the Holland Museum, Herrick Library, and Hope College’s Van Wylen Library
- A Founder’s Festival in Centennial Park
- Performance of one of the historic pageants produced at Hope College for key anniversaries or a commissioned play on the life and work of A. C. Van Raalte
- Musical performances of works by Dutch composers and by musicians from the Netherlands
- A community worship service

Details and program descriptions will be available on the DHCC website in the months ahead.

* <http://www.dutchheritagewestmichigan.com>

Proposed Acquisition and Restoration of the Van Raalte House in Ommen

The home where Rev. A. C. Van Raalte and his family resided during his pastorate in Ommen has fallen into a sad state of repair. The Van Raalte House Foundation has been established with the hope of raising sufficient funds to acquire and restore this historic residence. The Van Raalte Institute is looking for a way that we can assist them in their fundraising, for we are keenly aware of the failure of the City of Holland and Hope College to preserve the Van Raalte House on Fairbanks Avenue, and we wish to help our Dutch friends avoid a repetition of that unfortunate event. If we are able to establish connections with an appropriate 501(c)3 organization for receiving and disbursing funds for the Van Raalte House, we will notify you via mail.

The photographs that I took of the house during my visit to Ommen reveal the magnitude of the challenge facing our Dutch friends.



Fig. 12 Jack Nyenhuis in front of Van Raaltehuis, Ommen, the home of A. C. Van Raalte, 1838-44



Fig. 13 Van Raaltehuis interior being inspected by Hans Krabbendam and George Harinck, June 2010

Conclusion

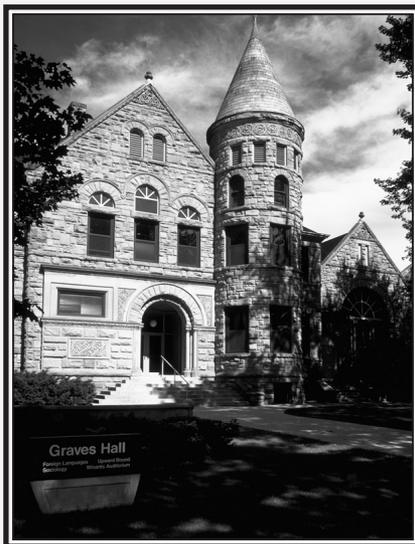
Again this year we express our enduring gratitude to our patrons, Peter H. and Heidi Huizenga, for their initial endowment of the Van Raalte Institute and for their ongoing support of our work. They have consistently encouraged us in our scholarly research and publication. We continue to pursue with energy and enthusiasm the vision that they articulated when they so generously endowed the institute.

We also express our ongoing gratitude to Eleonore “Lore” Goldschmidt Theil for a gift in honor of her late husband, Dr. Henri Theil, which provided some of the resources for the acquisition and renovation of the building—the Henri and Eleonore Theil Research Center—that we have shared since 2004 with the Joint Archives of Holland.

It is a pleasure to introduce this report to members of the Hope College community, as well as to our broader constituency—scholars and amateurs interested in the history of Dutch Americans, of the college, and of the local community. I invite you to read the individual reports and to take note of the research opportunities afforded by the Van Raalte Institute.

Jacob E. Nyenhuis
Director

An International Bilateral Conference:
Albertus C. Van Raalte, Leader and Liaison
Celebrating the A. C. Van Raalte Bicentennial
(17 October 1811 – 17 October 2011)



Graves Hall

*Speakers and their topics for conference at Hope College,
24-25 October 2011
(tentative list)*

Keynote Address: Robert P. Swierenga (Professor Emeritus, Kent State University; The Albertus C. Van Raalte Research Professor and Adjunct Professor of History, Hope College): *Off the Pulpit: Van Raalte as Community Leader*

Michael Douma (doctoral candidate at Florida State University): *Historiography on Albertus C. Van Raalte: How Writings about Him Have Changed over Time*

Peter Ester (Professor of Sociology, Rotterdam University, and Adjunct Research Professor, Van Raalte Institute): *Jacob van Hinte's Perception of A. C. Van Raalte and H. P. Scholte*

Speakers and their topics for conference at Hope College (cont.)

George Harinck (Professor of History, VU University Amsterdam and Kampen Theological University): *Albertus C. Van Raalte and Visits of Emigrants to the Old Country and Dutch Synods*

Richard Harms (Archivist, Calvin College): *Fissures in the Fellowship: Non-religious Dynamics of the Religious Divisions in the West Michigan 'Dutch Colony' during the 1850s*

Eugene Heideman (Professor Emeritus, Western Theological Seminary): *The Theology of the Reverend Dr. A. C. Van Raalte as Reflected in his Sermons on the Heidelberg Catechism*

Earl Wm. Kennedy (Professor Emeritus, Northwestern College; Sr. Research Fellow, Van Raalte Institute): *Albertus C. Van Raalte's Vision for Christian Education for Children in the Holland Colony*

Nella Kennedy (Sr. Research Fellow and Official Translator, Van Raalte Institute): *Personal Relationships within the greater Albertus C. Van Raalte Family*

Hans Krabbendam (Assistant Director, Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, Zeeland, the Netherlands): *Albertus Van Raalte as Social Reformer*

Janet Sjaarda Sheeres (Independent Scholar): *Zo God het behaagt... God Willing: The Failed Amelia Colony in Virginia vs. the Success of the Holland Colony*

Jacob E. Nyenhuis (Professor of Classics and Provost, Emeritus; Director, Van Raalte Institute): *A. C. Van Raalte and his Eponymous Institute: An International Vision for Dutch-American Relations*

Leon van den Broeke (Pastor, Federating Protestant Church of the Netherlands, Sint Pancras, and Assistant Professor, VU University Amsterdam): *"Christ as Master Builder...me as a tool": Albertus C. Van Raalte and the Ecclesiastical Organization*

*Speakers and their topics for conference at Landgoed Het Laer,
Ommen, Overijssel, 3-4 November 2011*



Landgoed Het Laer

Keynote Address: Robert P. Swierenga (title given on p. 13)

Gerrit Jan Beuker (Pastor, Altreformierte Kirche, Hoogstede): *A. C. Van Raalte en zijn werk onder afgescheiden gemeenten in Duitsland en zijn eventuele contact met Duitse emigranten in Michigan (A. C. Van Raalte's Work Among*

Seceder Congregations in Germany and his Later Contact with German Immigrants in Michigan)

Rein Nauta (Professor Emeritus, Universiteit Tilburg): *A. C. Van Raalte als religieus leider (A. C. Van Raalte's Religious Leadership)*

Gerrit te Rietstap (Secretary, Stichting Van Raaltehuis, Ommen): *De betekenis van Van Raaltes erfgoed voor stad en streek, en de plannen van de stichting (The Regional Importance and Impact of A. C. Van Raalte)*

Mees te Velde (Professor of History and Rector, Theologische Universiteit Kampen): *De opleiding die Van Raalte verzorgde in Overijssel en in Arnhem en de inhoud van dat onderwijs voor de afgescheiden gemeenschap (Van Raalte and Theological Education in the Seceder Churches in Ommen and Arnhem)*

Jaap van Gelderen (Assistant Professor Emeritus, Protestant Theological University Kampen): *De rol en betekenis van A. C. Van Raalte voor Ommen en omgeving (The Role and Importance of A. C. Van Raalte for Ommen and Environs)*

Titles given on the preceding pages for the following:

Peter Ester

George Harinck

Leon van den Broeke

Richard Harms

Nella Kennedy

Hans Krabbendam

Jacob E. Nyenhuis



In Memoriam
Karen G. Schakel
(27 August 1942 – 9 December 2009)

Office Manager and Editorial Assistant
A. C. Van Raalte Institute
1997-2009

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of a beloved colleague, Karen G. Schakel, on 9 December 2009, following a short illness. With her passing we lost a tremendously competent colleague and a wonderfully wise and kind friend.

She is survived by her husband of forty-five years, Dr. Peter J. Schakel; her daughter, Jennifer and Timothy Hoffman of Holland; her son, Jonathan Schakel and Megan Sharp of Charlottesville, Virginia; four grandchildren, Jonathan, Thomas, and Michael Hoffman, and Paul Schakel; her mother, Grace Snuttjer; her sisters, Lavina Block, Lois and Bruce Lombard, and Mary and Fred Schaa; her brother, David and Kathi Snuttjer; and sisters-in-law, Martha and James Hayward, Mary and Charles Benson; several nephews, nieces, and cousins. A grandson, Alex Hoffman, and a brother-in-law, Robert Block, preceded her in death.

Karen was born in George, Iowa, to Rev. Frank and Mrs. Grace Snuttjer, but she was raised mainly in Little Rock, Iowa. She earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1964 from Central College, Pella, Iowa. Shortly after graduation, she and Peter were married and moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where Peter worked on a PhD in English at the University of Wisconsin. From 1964 to 1967, Karen worked as Coordinator of the Faculty Advising Service in the Office of the Dean of the College of Letters and Science at the university. In 1968, she and Peter moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where Peter taught at the University of Nebraska for a year before joining the faculty of Hope College.

Before Karen came to the Van Raalte Institute in September 1997, she had served for eight years as the Director of Christian Education and Church Administrator at Third Reformed Church and eight years as a book buyer for Hope-Geneva Bookstore. A woman of deep faith, she loved her Lord and she loved his church. A dedicated churchwoman,

she served as an elder of Third Reformed Church, as a member of the Synod of the Great Lakes Education Task Force and on its Christian Discipleship Ministries Team. More recently she served on the Vestry of All Saints' Episcopal Church.

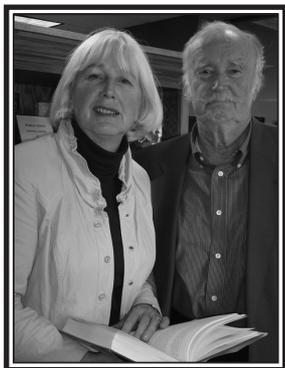
Karen was an avid reader and was long a member of two different book clubs, usually organizing their schedule and sending out reminders to the members. Her love for literature stood her in good stead in her role as editorial assistant, for she had a strong sense of language and style and a love for good writing. She combined a keen eye for detail with a phenomenal knowledge of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, and she exhibited complete dedication to excellence in all her work. The depth and range of her knowledge were evident to me throughout the eight years that we worked together. During that time, she assisted me on the copy editing of five books, covering topics as diverse as church history, Classics, art history, theology, and missions.

Karen co-authored *Albertus and Christina: The Van Raalte Family, Home and Roots* (Eerdmans, 2004). She co-edited, also with Elton J. Bruins, *The Formation of a Christian College Called Hope: Letters of Albertus Van Raalte to Dr. Philip Phelps Jr., 1857-1875*, which will be published next year by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., in collaboration with the Reformed Church in America's Historical Series.

In her role as office manager, Karen manifested superb organizational skills. She served as registrar for the 2007 Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, which the institute hosted, and earned numerous accolades for her outstanding work. One attendee declared that the conference "ran like a Swiss watch." Karen also handled the organization for the Colonial Clergy Conference which we co-hosted with Western Theological Seminary in October 2009. Again she won many expressions of praise and gratitude for her work.

Karen's funeral was held on 18 December 2009 at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Saugatuck. The service was conducted by the Reverend Dr. G. Corwin Stoppel. Karen's brother, David Snuttjer, read Scripture; her son Jonathan accompanied his wife, Megan, in singing of "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth," by George Frideric Handel; and Jacob E. Nyenhuis delivered the eulogy.

Dedication



*Fig. 14 Bill and Nella
Kennedy*

Each year since 2002, I have selected a person to whom the Annual Report will be dedicated. It is with great pleasure and high esteem that I dedicate the *2009-2010 Annual Report* to two dear friends and colleagues, **Bill and Nella Kennedy**. Both of them have worked faithfully and diligently with us for many years, although their formal association came only in recent years. They not only are invaluable resources for a broad range of issues but also are delightful companions.

Bill has been working assiduously for ten years on annotating the Minutes of Classis Holland of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church/Reformed Church in America, 1848-76. His doggedness in tracking down biographical information on every person named in the minutes is admirable and worthy of emulation. We look forward erelong to the publication of this impressive work of scholarship. His grasp of theological issues and his command of literature in the field, as well as his deep knowledge of Dutch, make him a tremendous source of information for us as we work on our own projects.

Nella brings to our guild of scholars a zest for the arts, a deep knowledge of art history—especially of Dutch art of the past four centuries—and a depth and breadth in Dutch language, literature, and history that enrich our understanding and our daily dialogue. Her curatorship and assistance with exhibitions at the Holland Museum have further strengthened our association with the museum.

Bill and Nella normally spend several months of the year, usually in the summer, in her native Netherlands. We always look forward eagerly to their return each September, for they bring additional energy and knowledge to our midst. They also enliven our daily coffee times with their wit and wisdom.

With this dedication, we honor them for their distinguished service and celebrate their contributions to the life of our small but lively research institute.

Reports

Donald J. Bruggink

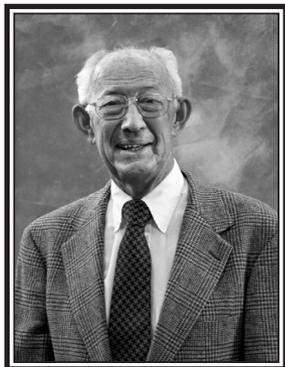


Fig. 15 Don Bruggink

Of the five volumes published in the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America during the period covered by this report, one records the seventeenth century consistory minutes of the Collegiate Churches of New York, one is specific to the Midwestern immigrant experience, another to the theology of many of those immigrants, a fourth to the impact of a son of those immigrants on the political and religious life of Asia, and the fifth on ecclesiology as experienced by the Reformed in the Netherlands, the United States, and South Africa.

Number 62 in the series (Number 63, *Aunt Tena*, appeared before the former), *Liber A, 1628-1700 of the Collegiate Churches of New York*, edited and translated by Francis J. Sypher, Jr. is magisterial original source material, elegantly printed and bound. As the first extant record book of the Collegiate Churches, it consists of records kept by domine Henricus Selijns during his ministry from 1682 to 1700, who copied the now lost originals dating from 1668. The transcription from the Dutch is on the facing page from the English translation. The difficulties of translating Selijns' hand-written Dutch are acknowledged in Sypher's Introduction, as is a biography of Selijns. The contents of *Liber A* span church life from the problems of getting parishioners to and from the communion table without jostling one another to obtaining a royal charter granting the Reformed Church full freedoms. The volume is richly footnoted with bibliography and index. A reviewer noted "*Liber A* is very quietly among the most important documents in American history."

Number 64 in the series, *The Practice of Piety: The Theology of the Midwestern Reformed Church in America, 1866-1966*, is by Eugene P. Heideman. Fluent in Dutch as the result of a doctorate from the University of Utrecht, Heideman has read all the periodicals of the immigrant communities, *De Hope*, and *De Wachter*, as well as the later church periodicals in English, and such books as were published. This thoroughly researched volume gives an excellent picture of the theological thought of the leaders of the Reformed Church in America during a formative century.

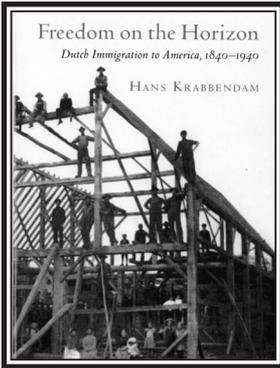


Fig. 16 *Freedom on the Horizon*

Number 65 in the series is, *Freedom on the Horizon: Dutch Immigration to America, 1840-1940*, by Hans Krabbendam. This author is the assistant director of the Roosevelt Study Center and views the experience of the immigrants from the perspective of the Netherlands. With the keen eye of a professional historian, Krabbendam chronicles how a small group of immigrants was able to maintain a sturdy Dutch sub-culture for over a century and a half. Written by an accomplished writer, thoroughly versed in the contemporary scholarship surrounding his subject, this insightful work is a delight to read. Originally published in

Dutch, its translation and publication have been made possible through the Roosevelt Study Center and the Van Raalte Institute.

Number 66 brings together scholars from Stellenbosch University, South Africa; the VU University Amsterdam; Luther Seminary, St. Paul; the Office of Theology and Worship, Louisville; and New Brunswick Theological Seminary, all addressing the question: *A Collegial Bishop? Classis and Presbytery at Issue*, edited by Allan J. Janssen and Leon van den Broeke. Robert Vosloo chronicles the helpful role of the classis in the reunification of Reformed church families after apartheid. Leon van den Broeke sets forth the challenge of the classis exercising both *episcopate* and *koinonia*. Craig Van Gelder insists that a clarification of ministry should lead to a clarification of the role of the classis. Joseph Small suggests that the example of the Venerable Company of Pastors in Geneva who placed

scripture and worship, theology and prayer, at the heart of the pastoral vocation commends itself for today. Allan Janssen sees church order as a place used by God for its mission in and to God's world.

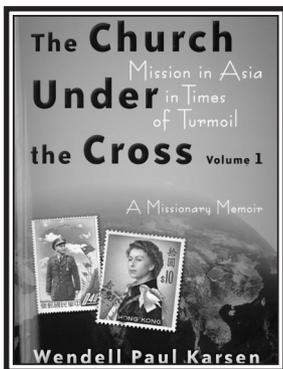


Fig. 17 *Under the Cross*

Number 67 takes us to Taiwan and Hong Kong, where a son of the Reformed Church in America, serving as one of its missionaries, finds himself not only spreading the Gospel in teaching and preaching, but also living its message in struggling with oppressive political and economic structures. This exciting

missionary memoir records the activities of one who sees beyond the walls of church and school to societal structures which are at odds with the gospel. This is volume 1 in Wendell Karsen's *The Church Under the Cross, Mission in Asia in Times of Turmoil*.

All volumes in the Historical Series are published by the Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company of Grand Rapids and Cambridge.

As this year's report is ended, volumes for which manuscripts have been approved and are in active process moving toward publication are *The American Diary of Jacob Van Hinte, Author of the Classic Immigrant Study* Netherlanders in America, edited by Peter Ester, Nella Kennedy, and Earl Wm. Kennedy; and *A New Way of Belonging: Covenant Theology, China, and the Christian Reformed Church, 1921-1951* by Kurt D. Selles.

In the other part of my life, the continuing education duties for Western Seminary's "Journey Overseas, the growing tensions between the United States and Islam" made this an appropriate time to do a tour to Eastern Turkey. With borders on Christian Georgia and Armenia, and Muslim Iran, Iraq, and Syria, it seemed an ideal place to get at least some feel for growing tensions. While visiting ancient Christian and Muslim sites, as well as functioning mosques and churches (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant), our group encountered no hostility on the part of the people anywhere we went. Although there are many more head scarves than before the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, they are worn with members of the same family dressed in T shirts and light jeans. On the street ankle-length coats exist side by side with above-the-knee dresses. Since 2010 is the year for the once-in-a-decade Oberammergau Passion Play, it seemed like an opportune time to take my second tour of the season to central Europe under the title "Expressions of Faith: The Great Churches of Dresden, Krakow, and Prague, and the Oberammergau Passion Play." For me, the high point of the tour was to worship in the Frauenkirche in Dresden. In 1986 when I was last in Dresden, it was but a pile of rubble. Now it is restored in all its eighteenth-century glory, with a sister church, the Cathedral in Coventry. Both churches were victims of World War II, both resurrected and in the Christian embrace of reconciliation.

Robert P. Swierenga



Fig. 18 Bob Swierenga

The fall of 2009 began with the memorable presentation of the *Aunt Tena* book at the Huizenga Family Reunion on August 14 at the Bay Harbor Resort, Petoskey, Michigan. Jack Nyenhuis described the production of the book and its signal contributions, and I reflected on personal memories of Aunt Tena and the many ways in which the book is a memoir of the Huizenga family.

The second notable event took place in New York City on 12 September 2009 as part of the celebration of the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of Manhattan Island and the river that bears his name. I spoke at the Frisian Day celebration on Governor's Island in New York harbor, reflecting on the book, *Famous Frisians in America* (Leeuwarden, 2009). Crown Prince Willem Alexander and Princess Maxima of the Netherlands attended the celebration.

I wrote several more chapters of a comprehensive history of Holland, Michigan on which I have been working for eight years. I completed chapters on the renewal of the downtown in the 1980s, and the growing ethnic and cultural diversity of the city since the 1970s. I hope to complete a draft this fall and begin the process of editing and adding illustrations. The finished work may total 1,200 pages and will represent my most ambitious research project to date.

I presented several lectures for academic and community groups and contributed chapters for scholarly books and academic journals. The list is noted in the "Publications and Presentations" section.

Foreward to Garbio

An excerpt

“Picking up” seemed to fit the Dutch temperament. Over the years more than four hundred Dutch-owned refuse companies operated in the Chicago area, manned by thousands of drivers and helpers. They proudly call themselves “Garbios.” The origin of the word is lost in the dim past, but it likely was a “spin-off” of the Italian word Mafioso who lived cheek by jowl with the Hollanders.

It began in the 1880s when fresh immigrants from the northern Netherlands province of Groningen, who settled on the city’s West Side, found work as “night scavengers” picking up cinders and refuse. This was hard, dirty work fit only for “greenies.” But it suited the Dutch well. They had come off the farm in the Old Country and were determined in America to “be their own boss.” And they loved to work with horses. For \$200 they could buy a horse and a wagon and begin picking up for \$2 a load. They never lacked for work, even during the Great Depression. Their favorite adage was: “Your garbage is our bread and butter.”

Working the city streets and alleys in the wee hours of the morning, garbios faced every form of lowlife—drunks, prostitutes, corrupt cops, union goons, mobsters, and yes, RATS as big as cats. And serious injury was only a misstep away. The men developed a special camaraderie that came from the loneliness of the night, the smelly cans they had to “hump” and dump, and the ethno-religious bond they shared. They lived together in dense Dutch neighborhoods, talked after work on the front porches, worshipped together in the Dutch Reformed churches, and even lived out their days in church-affiliated retirement homes. Garbage was on their tongues morning to night seven days a week.

Robert P. Swierenga, “Foreword,” in *Garbio: Stories of Chicago, its garbage, and the Dutchmen who picked it up*, by Larry VanderLeest.

Earl Wm. Kennedy

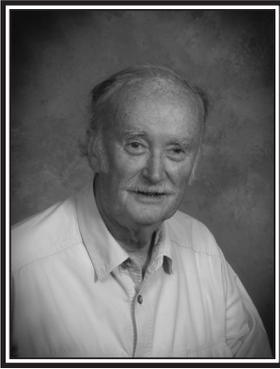


Fig. 19 Earl Wm. Kennedy

Another year has passed, and there is light at the end of the tunnel (or is it a mirage?) of my decade-long project of annotating the Classis of Holland Minutes in the Van Raalte era 1848-1876. To review, for those who might have missed or forgotten earlier installments of this report, my unexpectedly long journey began as an assignment to provide background for the people, issues, decisions, and the like, appearing in the deliberations of the Classis of Holland from 1858 to 1876, the year of A. C. Van Raalte's death. These minutes, originally in Dutch but now translated by William and Althea Buursma and annotated by me, were to be prepared for first-time publication, as a sequel to the already long-in-print (1943) but virtually unannotated Classical Minutes from 1848 to 1858. Upon completion of my initial task, it was decided that I should also add comments on the minutes of that first decade of the classis' existence, that is, the crucial period from the birth of the classis (1848), its affiliation with the old Reformed Protestant Dutch Church largely concentrated in the East (1850), and the critical years of the mid-1850s, when what was to become the Christian Reformed Church separated painfully from the classis.

I reported last year that I had completed annotating the second, final part of my assignment and was engaged in upgrading my earlier work, on the 1858 to 1876 minutes. I have since then pretty well finished the latter task and have begun the "final" read-through of the whole document, 1848-1876. I arrived at the beginning of 1851 by the end of May but was unable to carry this work further during the summer, partly because two other projects, which might, if understood positively, be categorized as "bypass meadows," intervened. They have been both enjoyable and profitable but nevertheless have been diversions delaying the completion of my "magnum opus."

The first "diversion" was the preparation, during the spring and summer of 2009, of an academic paper, delivered in September, on the life and career of the Rev. Guiliam Bertholf (1656-1726?), the first Dutch Reformed pastor in colonial New Jersey. Condensing this paper for eventual publication took considerable time during the early part of 2010.

The other “diversion”—particularly this spring and summer—involved providing many footnotes, especially on people, for the soon-to-be-published 1921 diary of Jacob Van Hinte, author of the classic study *Netherlanders in America*. This project was initiated by Peter Ester, who then engaged my wife Nella and finally me as collaborators. It will soon appear as a part of the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America.

Other activities at the Van Raalte Institute include occasional ad hoc research for my colleagues, with whom I continue to enjoy the warmest relations. Although we were devastated by the loss of Karen Schakel, we were more than well served by her temporary replacement, Katherine Mervau, and now JoHannah Smith has quickly become a valued part of our “team.”

Dominie Bloedworst

A series of excerpts

The Rev. Hendrik George Klijn (1793-1883) had come as a Seceder pastor in 1849 from Middelburg, Zeeland, with a large group of Zeelanders. He was born in Utrecht, the youngest of the five children of Johan Georg Christiaan Rombach (of a fairly well-situated German Lutheran family), who had settled in the Netherlands, married a Dutch woman, and fallen on hard times; his last reported occupation was as a teacher of English (he had lived briefly in London). When Hendrik was not quite six months old, his father was executed before a huge crowd for brutally murdering and robbing a Jewish man, whose throat he slit with a razor. This was the last execution in Utrecht in which the person’s bones were systematically broken on the rack with a sledge hammer (the punishment reserved for the worst criminals); the corpse was then hung up as an example to others.

Not surprisingly, Hendrik was raised in poverty by his widowed mother and also in an orphanage. He officially took her maiden name but nearly four decades later in Utrecht was called abusively “*Dominie Bloedworst*” (“Rev. Blood-sausage”), presumably in reference to his father’s crime. Sadly, H. G. Klijn did not escape poverty in the New World, for in his last years he repeatedly had to petition the Classis

of Wisconsin for payment of his promised retirement income from its Disabled Ministers Fund.

Klijn served two congregations in the Netherlands (1839-49) and several more in the United States (in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois) up until his “retirement” in 1868; he continued preaching, however, until a day past his ninetieth birthday (from his death bed). Although this ministry doubtless served to provide him with a small income, he seems also to have viewed it as a joyful privilege. “He was indefatigable until the end, still at work in the proclamation of the grace of God. When he could not stand anymore, he did so seated, and when he could not sit in his chair anymore, he did so from his bed.” E. Winter, “In Memoriam,” *De Hope*, 11, December 1883, p. 6.

Earl Wm. Kennedy, *Holland Classis Notes 1848-1858*, annotated, n. 91



Nella Kennedy



Fig. 20 Nella Kennedy

As translator at the A. C. Van Raalte Institute for more than ten years, I have been turning documents from Dutch into English: classical minutes, articles, letters, and etc. Not a few of them were revisions of earlier translated material. Through this I have learned a good deal about Dutch-American life, especially in Michigan. Through the years at several conferences of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies, I have given papers on some aspect of an early settlement, or illuminated the life of an early settler (mostly in Iowa).

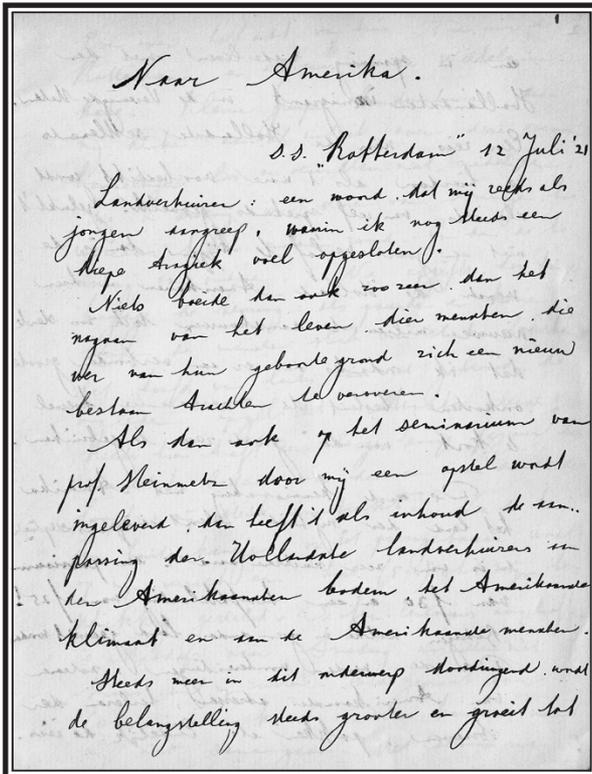


Fig. 21 The first page of Van Hinte's Dutch diary

It was, even so, a great surprise, and honor, that I was granted the status of Senior Research Fellow at the Van Raalte Institute. Maintaining my position as chief translator at the same time gives me a double advantage, since the documents I translate represent storehouses for possible research projects.

My current project began with the translation of the diary of Jacob Van Hinte, written in 1921 while he was traveling to and from, and visiting Dutch-American communities in the East and the Midwest. His objective was research for his dissertation, which resulted in the publication *Nederlanders in Amerika* (1928). It was the seminal book on the Dutch-American experience up to that time, and the English version (1985) has widened readership even more. The diary casts an intriguing light on the man, how he related to those he interviewed, and how he observed the American scene. Only a transcribed version was available to me in the early months of the translation, but the discovery of his original, handwritten diary in the Netherlands enabled me to give closer scrutiny to Van Hinte's not always clear handwriting.

While translating the diary, I began to annotate names, events, and places, which would clarify the diary to the American reader. This was enthusiastically endorsed by the initiator of the project, Dr. Peter Ester, who began to add his annotations as well. Dr. Earl Wm. Kennedy, with his expertise in genealogical research, joined later. It has thus been a collaborative effort, and will result, with an introduction by Ester, in a book to be co-published by the Van Raalte Press and Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Curious discoveries were made in our research. One example will suffice: Van Hinte visited the cemetery in Holland to see the Van Raalte grave, and, seemingly arbitrarily, jotted down the names of two other tombstones. One was of a widow who had died in 1848, leaving behind five children. Van Hinte almost certainly did not know that this woman was the widow of an *Afgescheiden* pastor who died before the family immigrated to the US in 1847, and furthermore, that Van Raalte himself took the youngest to be raised in his household, beyond 1850 at least.

In between working on Van Hinte, I have continued to translate documents for various colleagues, and occasionally on my own initiative.

Jacob E. Nyenhuis

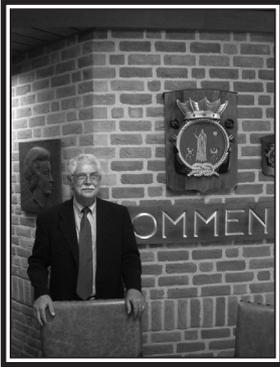


Fig. 22 Jack Nyenhuis in Gemeentehuis Ommen, the Netherlands, June 2010

My time this past year was concentrated most heavily on editing the papers from the AADAS conference held in Ancaster, Ontario, in June 2009. Mid-way through the year I accepted the lead editor's role for this project in order to relieve the heavy workload of co-editor Suzanne Sinke. At this writing, *Across Borders: Dutch Migration to North America and Australia* (Van Raalte Press, 2010) is being printed and copies should soon be on their way to members of AADAS. I had the able assistance of Dr. Kathleen Verduin, Professor of English, and JoHannah Smith in the editorial process. The remainder of my time was taken up with the usual responsibilities of directing the institute, along with an occasional lecture

and service to church and community, much of which was covered in my director's report.

Because *Aunt Tena, Called to Serve: Journals and Letters of Tena A. Huizenga, Missionary Nurse to Nigeria* was published while we were at work on last year's annual report, it was highlighted in the 2008-09 report, even though it properly belongs in this one. I gave two presentations on the book between August 2009 and July 2010, one of which was cited last year.

My long-term research project, an architectural history of Hope College, has not progressed any further in the past year, since I first must complete revisions for a third edition of *Latin Via Ovid* for Wayne State University Press, on which I am working with my co-authors, Norma Goldman and Preston Shea. I expect to have completed that task by the time this report is published.

My service to church, college, and community consisted of: (1) serving as a member of the West Michigan Dutch-American Heritage Day Committee, (2) serving on the local Dutch Heritage Coordinating Council, and (3) serving my church in various ways. I also delivered eulogies at memorial services for several dear friends: Dr. Jeanne M. Jacobson, Karen G. Schakel, and Professor Emeritus of Art Dr. John M. Wilson.

My wife, Lee, and I traveled to Italy in late May and to the Netherlands in early June 2010, as noted in my director's report. In addition to fulfilling professional obligations during the trip, I was able to enrich my knowledge of art and art history through visits to several of the major museums in both Florence and Amsterdam. During our time in Amsterdam, we also traveled to Delfgauw to dine with our first NAF Visiting Research Fellow and current honorary research fellow, J. P. Verhave and his family. The friendships that we have built up over the years through the Visiting Research Fellows Program have been a great blessing to me and my colleagues at the institute.

It is a privilege to work daily with truly wonderful colleagues to fulfill the mission of the Van Raalte Institute.

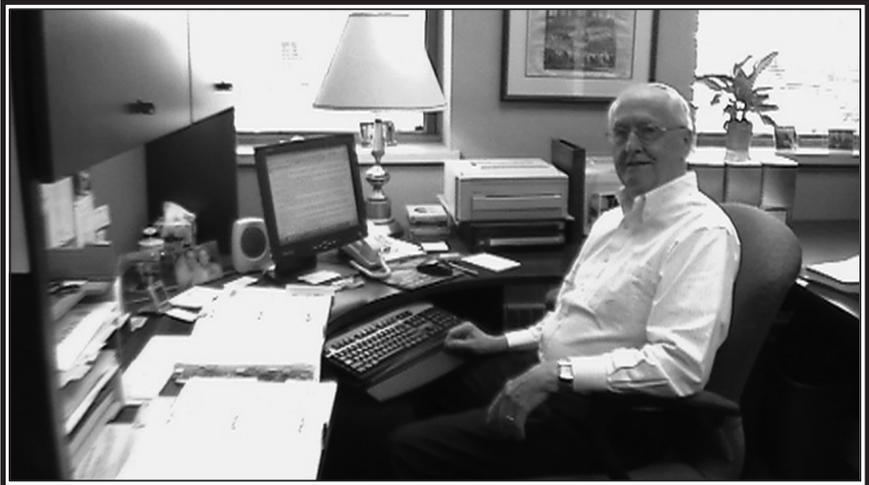


Fig. 23 Elton Bruins, retired founding director of the Van Raalte Institute continues to work daily on his forthcoming publication of the letters from Van Raalte to Philip Phelps Jr. written from 1857 to 1875

Adjunct and Honorary Members

Peter Ester



Fig. 24 Peter Ester

The year 2009 marked a very important year for me personally. On the nomination of the Dutch government, I was appointed by her Majesty Queen Beatrix as Crown Member of the Dutch Social and Economic Council (SER). The council is the highest advisory and consultative board in the Netherlands and aims to help create social consensus in Dutch policy-making on national and international socio-economic issues. The SER membership will take up a considerable amount of my time, but it is well worth it, not so much in terms of personal prestige (a very non-Calvinist thought!) but much more in terms of being at the core of Dutch social and economy policy-making. I was furthermore appointed at Rotterdam University to help them with setting up a large research institute on social innovation.

The year 2009 marked a very important year for me personally. On the nomination of the Dutch government, I was appointed by her Majesty Queen Beatrix as Crown Member of the Dutch Social and Economic Council (SER). The council is the highest advisory and consultative board in the Netherlands and aims to help create social consensus in Dutch policy-making on national and international socio-economic issues. The SER membership will take up a considerable amount of my time, but it is well worth it, not so much in terms of personal prestige (a very non-Calvinist thought!) but much more in terms of being at the core of Dutch social and economy policy-making. I was furthermore appointed at Rotterdam University to help them with setting up a large research institute on social innovation.

My 2009-2010 involvement as adjunct Research Professor with the Van Raalte Institute centered around four topics.

1. I worked on a number of publications resulting from my 2007-2008 VRI-NAF Fellowship on Dutch American culture. The most recent ones are included in the “Publications and Presentations” section.

2. Together with my VRI colleagues Nella & Bill Kennedy we finalized the manuscript *The American Diary of Jacob Van Hinte, Author of the Classic Immigrant Study Nederlanders in Amerika* (1928). The study contains an annotated translation of the long-lost diary which Jacob Van Hinte kept during his 1921 study visit to the United States. I found the original diary in 2009 (saved by Van Hinte’s nephew and namesake Jacob E. Van Hinte, Emeritus Professor at the VU University Amsterdam). I wrote a lengthy introduction to the diary and to the work of Jacob Van Hinte. His study trip was of vital importance for writing his monumental book *Netherlanders in America*,* which was a landmark study of the Dutch experience in the

* Jacob Van Hinte, *Netherlanders in America: A Study of Emigration and Settlement in the 19th and 20th Centuries in the United States of America*, gen. ed. Robert P. Swierenga, chief trans. Adriaan de Wit (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1985).

United States. Van Hinte's epic story of the Dutch presence in America influenced generations of historians and social scientists studying Dutch immigration and settlement in the United States. *The American Diary* is a co-publication of the Van Raalte Press and Eerdmans Publishing Company. The publication of the translated and annotated diary sheds many new insights on Van Hinte's pioneering book. It was a joy working with Nella and Bill Kennedy on this project.

3. Earlier in 2010 I started a new research project on highly successful Dutch-American entrepreneurs: *Faith, Family, and Fortune*. This study explores the relationship between entrepreneurial success and Reformed beliefs. West Michigan has a striking presence of successful Dutch-American enterprises or perhaps more accurate: enterprises founded by Dutch-Americans. Several of these companies grew into mega-businesses. Apparently, many of these industrialists and manufacturers have the right entrepreneurial skills to be highly competitive in a challenging and dynamic market. It is not, however, only their business competency that counts: a substantial number of Dutch-American entrepreneurs are committed Protestants, active members of Reformed churches, and firm believers in Calvinist doctrines. Their churches (Reformed Church in America, Christian Reformed Church) are strongly rooted in Dutch-American immigration history. Somehow, Calvinism and entrepreneurship go well together, and in combination prospered in the American cultural context. To clarify this relationship is one of the main goals of my study. For my study, I interviewed twenty-two leading Dutch-American entrepreneurs in Western Michigan and the greater Chicago area. I am currently analyzing the transcripts of these informative and fascinating interviews. The results will be presented in my monograph, which will be published by Van Raalte Press in 2011.

4. Together with VRI director Jacob E. Nyenhuis and VRI fellows George Harinck and Hans Krabbendam we are preparing an exciting upcoming event: the International Conference "Albertus C. Van Raalte, Leader and Liaison." Researchers from both sides of the ocean will attend this important event.* I will present a paper on Jacob Van Hinte's perception of A. C. Van Raalte and H. P. Scholte as Dutch immigration pioneer leaders.

I am looking forward to this conference which will bring together a number of very interesting speakers from both the United States and Europe.

* This conference is described in the director's report. *Ed.*

Hans Krabbendam



Fig. 25 Hans Krabbendam with Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet

Washington DC; at the FDR Library in Hyde Park, New York; and at Hope College. On 15-16 October 2009, I organized a major conference on this topic at the Free University in Amsterdam in cooperation with a number of historical and cultural organizations. Though it was a great project on which to work, we are happy that it came to a good conclusion and that the book has been well-received.

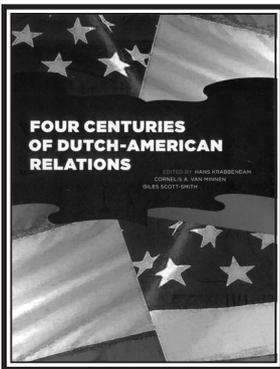


Fig. 26 This book was presented to dignitaries in Washington DC, New York, and the Netherlands

The fall of 2009 was largely swallowed up by events around the commemoration of Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations both in the Netherlands and the United States. The official presentation of *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009* took place on 2 September 2009, in Middelburg's Abbey and was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands. In the United States the editors presented the book at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC, with comments by former US ambassador to the Netherlands, L. Paul Bremer III, and current Dutch ambassador to the US, Renée Jones-Bos; at the Library of Congress in

A second highlight was the publication of *Freedom on the Horizon: Dutch Immigration to America, 1840-1940* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009). This was a major translation effort by Harry Boonstra and Gerrit Sheeres, and I was pleased to see the book available at the celebration of Dutch-American Heritage Day in Hudsonville on November 19, where I was invited as the keynote speaker on "Our America? How the Dutch won and lost a continent." I published two articles: "Zeeuwse emigratie naar Noord-Amerika tussen mythe en werkelijkheid," *De Spuije*, 79.1 (2010): 2-10, and "Amerikaanse evangelicalen en de democratisering van het Nederlandse protestantisme: Youth for Christ in Nederland, 1946-1960" *Groniek* 183 (September 2009):

177-189, as well as a number of reviews. I gave lectures on Dutch-American topics almost on a monthly basis.

It was a great pleasure to participate in the Colonial Clergy Conference held at Hope (and at NBTS), ably organized by Leon van den Broeke. I revisited the life of Cornelius VanderMeulen as a typical (new) colonial minister. With Leon and Dirk Mouw we are making good progress in editing the fourteen articles for publication. In the spring semester of 2010, I had little time for research as I replaced the RSC director Kees van Minnen who was on a well-deserved sabbatical leave. It was with great pleasure that George Harinck and I could direct Enne Koop's dissertation "The Dynamics of an Emigration Culture. The Emigration of Calvinists, Reformed and Catholics to North America from a Comparative Perspective (1947-1963)" to a solid defense. His book adds a significant chapter to the post World II emigration story. His thesis defense on 22 June in Kampen was followed by a symposium at which a number of immigration scholars discussed when religious convictions stimulated and when they discouraged departure.

The RSC added its first digital publication to its resources. The *Sheboygan Nieuwsbode* was digitized as a pilot in the D-DAPPER project, which stands for **D**igital **D**utch-**A**merican **P**ress and **P**ERiodicals. This Dutch language newspaper served Dutch immigrants in the Midwest from 1849 to 1860. Six more titles from different regions and periods are lined up for digitization. The purpose of the project is to offer scholars a representative selection of resources which will stimulate Dutch-American studies by allowing new research questions. The RSC cooperates with a number of institutions in the Zeeland region, the Royal Library in The Hague, and with American depositories and institutes, especially the VRI and Calvin College. I am encouraged that the Dutch-American connections continue to flourish.



Fig. 27 J. P. Verhave family at dinner with Jack and Lee Nyenhuis in Delfgauw, June 2010. Left to right: Joke, son-in-law Alex, daughter Nelleke, and J. P.

My activities as an honorary research fellow of the Van Raalte Institute center once again around Paul de Kruif: Holland citizen, renowned and feared proponent of medical developments, fighter for health reform, and campaigner for public health issues. My hunt for his correspondence with a wide array of prominent American medical figures and writers via the Internet has been satisfactory with fifty-five people providing from one to two hundred letters and telegrams. Some contain real gems for a biography!

I have now provisionally finished eight of twenty-one intended chapters of de Kruif's biography. Some of the information is too interesting and involved to include in the biography; these subjects call for publication as short articles. So far, one article has been published on the friendly relationship of De Kruif with the Chicago surgeon and cancer specialist Ludvig Hektoen: "A Norse and Dutch Friendship," *Hektoen International* 2, no. 1, February 2010. This is an online journal of medical humanities.

A second article will appear in October of this year in *Medical History* 54 (2010), 529–36, and is entitled "Clifford Dobell and the Making of Paul de Kruif's Microbe Hunters." It is based on some letters from the British protozoologist Dobell that I found hidden in the Holland Museum Archive's PdK file.

The third article was accepted for publication in the *Sinclair Lewis Newsletter*. It is the result of a search for the real people behind their disguises in Lewis' novel *Arrowsmith*, written with the assistance of Paul de Kruif in 1925. "Arrowsmith and the People Behind its Characters" will appear in spring 2011.

I greatly appreciate the assistance and interest of my colleagues at the Van Raalte Institute: Jack Nyenhuis, Bill Kennedy, Bob Swierenga, and Michael Douma.

“A Norse and Dutch Friendship”

An excerpt

When Paul de Kruif was busy writing his book, *Life Among the Doctors* (1949), he wanted to write one chapter on his revered friend Ludvig Hektoen and “his” Cancer Treatment Institute in Chicago. The institute’s *éminence grise*, however, asked Paul by telephone with some emphasis to leave out his name and that of the institute. De Kruif respected this wish and in chapter 12 “Old man against cancer” he talked only about the grand man:

He shows the fragility inevitable in one so very old. His hair remains thick and silky white. His wrinkles are hardly noticeable except when he smiles. His skin is smooth like that of a man of 50. His color is faintly rosy except when a medical rebuff makes him sad; then suddenly he may turn pale and look very old. Despite his age, he is on the front step of new science, and is convinced of the benefits of X-ray and radium treatment. For the grand old man there was a salt of life in saving victims given up by the surgeons.

With this description of this physiognomy and the stressing of the Scandinavian accent, every contemporary physician and scientist in the field would have recognized Dr. Hektoen, even though Chicago was not even mentioned. Present and future medical specialists and historians, however, are at loss. Hardly any biographical note about Ludvig Hektoen mentions the brave activities for cancer treatment he undertook in the twilight of his life. In my paper I have now lifted the veil off this chapter on the anonymous ‘grand old man.’ The chapter is now a valuable source for medical historians who might engage in writing a biography of Ludvig Hektoen or the history of American cancer research.

The European-style upbringing both men had received may have provided a connecting bond. Though Paul normally employed a very slangy language around his peers, he restrained himself in his letters to his respected friend: “He has quieted my profane boisterousness acquired from a somewhat rough life among rough men [in his place of birth Zeeland!]. He makes me measure my words; he calms me down.”

“A Norse and Dutch Friendship” by J. P. Verhave in *Hektoen International* 2, no. 1 (February 2010)

George Harinck



Fig. 28 George Harinck

I have spent the past year working on the manuscript of my book on Nicholas Steffens (1839-1912), the first professor of Western Theological Seminary, to be published by the Van Raalte Press. Nicholas Marten Steffens was a leader of the Reformed Church in America in the West during the years of transition, 1878-1895. After having consulted the director of the Van Raalte Institute, I decided to add the fifteen letters of Steffens to Abraham Kuyper to the book. In my spare time I have translated and annotated these letters.

As Jack Nyenhuis mentioned in his “Message from the Director,” he and I are planning the bilateral international conference on A. C. Van Raalte to celebrate the bicentennial of his birth. We have organized a committee, selected locations for both the Dutch and American conference sites, and invited speakers. This initiative strengthens the ties between Dutch and American institutions for historical research and underlines our responsibility to celebrate and preserve the heritage we share.

Letters by Nicholas M. Steffens

An excerpt

You do well to provide your son with a good supply of suits and shoes because here those things are of poor quality and expensive. Dutch books are also very expensive here because of the import duties and the generous percentages of commission. Thus, if your son brings along a large number of books and pieces of music, it will be an advantage to him later.

N. M. Steffens to Kuyper 7 May 1886, about sending Fredrik Kuyper to Michigan

Publications and Presentations

Publications

Abstracts of all articles in *Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte* 100 (2009), for *Religious and Theological Abstracts* (online). (Earl Wm. Kennedy)

“Amerikaans-Nederlandse wederzijdse religieuze betrekkingen en beïnvloedingen in de negentiende eeuw,” *Groniek* 183 (September 2009): 161-76. (George Harinck)

“Amerikaanse evangelicalen en de democratisering van het Nederlandse protestantisme: Youth for Christ in Nederland, 1946-1960” *Groniek* 183 (September 2009): 177-89. (Hans Krabbendam)

“Church, Family, Hard Work, and Dutch Clean.” Jeugdherinneringen, godsdienst en etniciteit van Nederlandse immigranten in Amerika. *Religie en Samenleving* 4 (2009): 109-38. (Peter Ester)

“Double Dutch? Formative years, youth memories, and the life course of older Dutch Americans: The role of ethnicity and religion,” *Reformed Review* 62 (2009): 61-89. (Peter Ester)

“Dutch Protestants in America,” *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, 4 (2004). (Robert P. Swierenga)*

“Foreward” in *Garbio: Stories of Chicago, its garbage, and the Dutchmen who picked it up*,” by Larry Vander Leest. Grand Rapids: Chapbook Press, 2010. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“Generatiebesef in Nederland. In: C. Bode & L. Consoli (red.),” *Ouden Jong, Verschillende generaties in Nederland*. Valkhof Pers. Thijmgenootschap (2010): 12-32 (with I. Diepstraten en H. Vinken). (Peter Ester)

“Herman Bavinck and Geerhardus Vos,” *Calvin Theological Journal* 45, no. 1 (2010): 18-31; also at <http://bavinck.calvinseminary.edu/resources/pearl-and-leaven-conference-audio>. (George Harinck)

Mijn reis was geboden. Abraham Kuypers Amerikaanse tournee (Hilversum: Verloren, 2009) 191. (George Harinck)

* Not listed previously in the annual report. *Ed.*

“Murdered by the Mob: The Fate of Chicago Teamster Spike Hoekstra,” *Origins* 1 (2010): 17-27 (with Ralph Hoekstra). (Robert Swierenga)

“A Norse and Dutch Friendship,” *Hektoen International* 2, no. 1 (February 2010). (J. P. Verhave)

“Op het speelveld tussen kerk en staat. De positie van de theologische opleiding op Stellenbosch in vergelijking met die in Duitsland, Nederland, Schotland en de Verenigde Staten,” *Nederduits Gereformeerd Theologische Tydskrif* 51 supplementum (2010): 104-15. (George Harinck)

“A Paradise That Never Was: The Dutch Immigrant Presence in Argentina,” *Windmill Herald* (New Year 2010, Supplement C): 3-10. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“Religious Exchange in the Dutch-American Network,” *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations*, Hans Krabbendam, Cornelis A. van Minnen, and Giles Scott-Smith, eds. (Amsterdam/New York 2009) 329-39. (George Harinck)

“‘To America:’ The Diary of Jacob Van Hinte: Pioneer of Dutch-American Studies.” and “Jacob Van Hinte: Pioneer and Preeminent Scholar of Dutch-American Studies,” *Origins* 27 (2009): 18-34. (Peter Ester)

“Transatlantic Transportation and Travelers’ Experience,” *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations 1609-2009*, Hans Krabbendam, Cornelis A. van Minnen, Giles Scott-Smith, eds. (Amsterdam/New York 2009) 318-28; met Augustus J. Veenendaal jr. (George Harinck)

“Understanding migration decisions in Eastern and Western Europe: perceived costs and benefits of mobility,” *Migration and Mobility in Europe. Trends, patterns and control*, (2009): 51-72. (Peter Ester with D. Fouarge).

“Uwe komst in Amerika zou ten rijken zegen kunnen zijn. Hoe de Vrije Universiteit in de negentiende eeuw internationale betekenis kreeg,” *Over de grens. Internationale contacten aan Nederlandse universiteiten sedert 1876*, L. J. Dorsman en P. J. Knegtmans (red.), (Hilversum: Verloren, 2009): 101-20. (George Harinck)

“Zeeuwse emigratie naar Noord-Amerika tussen mythe en werkelijkheid,” *De Spuije* 79.1 (2010): 2-10. (Hans Krabbendam)

Translations

Translation from Dutch into English of the website of the Centre for Religion and Law of the VU University Amsterdam (12 January 2010) [done for C. L. van den Broeke] (Earl Wm. Kennedy)

Translation from Dutch into English *Naar Amerika*, the travel diary written by Jacob Van Hinte during his five-week visit to the United States in 1921 (Nella Kennedy)

Presentations

“Guiliam Bertholf 1656-1725/6” for the Colonial Clergy Conference: Dutch Traditions and American Realities, at Hope College, 28 September 2009. (Earl Wm. Kennedy)

“History of the Reformed Churches in the Nineteenth Century,” for Korean-American Reformed Church pastors, Pillar Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, 4 June 2010. (Robert P. Swierenga)

“Tena A. Huizenga, Missionary Nurse to Nigeria.” Presentation at the Adult Education Class, 14th Street Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, 21 February 2010. (Jacob E. Nyenhuis)

“The Form of Subscription in Reformed Church History since the Synod of Dordt,” Lecture at Protestant Reformed Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2 Oct. 2009. (Robert P. Swierenga)

Forthcoming Publications

Bruins, Elton J. and Karen G. Schakel, eds., *The Creation of a Christian College Called Hope: The Correspondence of Albertus C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps Jr., 1857-1875.*

Ester, Peter, *Faith, Family, and Fortune.*

Ester, Peter, Nella Kennedy, and Earl Wm. Kennedy, eds., *The American Diary of Jacob Van Hinte: Author of the Classic Immigrant Study, Nederlanders in Amerika.*

Harinck, George, “Here we live presently under a waning moon.” *Nicholas Marten Steffens as Leader of the Reformed Church in America in the West in Years of Transition (1878-1895).*

Nyenhuis, Jacob E., Suzanne Sinke, and Robert P. Swierenga, eds., *Across Borders: Dutch Migration to North America and Australia.*

Van den broeke, Leon, “Pope of the Classis?” *The Leadership of Albertus C. Van Raalte in Dutch and American Classes.*

Zwart, David, *Preachers, Pews, and Pupils: Commemorating the Past in Twentieth-century Dutch America.*



VRI Visiting Research Fellows Program Lecture Series

Inaugural Lecture – 18 September 2003

Dutch-American Identity Politics: The Use of History by Dutch Immigrants,

Hans Krabbendam, Roosevelt Study Center, the Netherlands

Lecture No. 2 – 2 April 2004

The Rain of God: Reformed Church in America Growth and Decline in Historical Perspective,

Lynn M. Japinga, Hope College

Unpublished Lecture – 10 November 2004

Dutch Entrepreneurship: Spirit or Ideology?

Hans Niemansverdriet, freelance researcher, writer, and broadcaster, Amsterdam. Four weeks later, he suffered a stroke from which he never recovered; he died 12 April 2007.

Lecture No. 3 – 16 February 2006

Reassessing 1857: Overlooked Considerations Concerning the Birth of the Christian Reformed Church,

James A. De Jong, Calvin Theological Seminary

Lecture No. 4 – 9 November 2006

Disease and Death among the Early Settlers in Holland, Michigan,

J. P. Verhave, Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Lecture No. 5 – 28 August 2007

Growing Up Dutch-American: Cultural Identity and the Formative Years of Older Dutch-Americans,

Peter Ester, Tilburg University, the Netherlands

Lecture No. 6 – 18 February 2008

The Dutch Equation in the RCA Freemasonry Controversy, 1865-1885,

Harry Boonstra, Calvin College and Seminary

Lecture Series (cont.)

Lecture No. 7 – 4 September 2008

Nicholas Steffens and Trans-Atlantic Relationships within the Reformed Church,

George Harinck, VU University Amsterdam*

Lecture No. 8 – 2 October 2008

Preachers, Pews, and Pupils: Commemorating the Past in Twentieth Century Dutch America,

David Zwart, Dordt College*

Lecture No. 9 – 19 February 2009

The RCA Mission to Chiapas, 1925-2000,

Elizabeth Harvey, University of California, Berkeley*

Lecture No. 10

Michael Douma will present *Dutch Americans and the Rise of Heritage Studies* on Friday, 3 December 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the Fried-Hemenway Auditorium in the Martha Miller Center on the campus of Hope College, Holland, Michigan. This building is located on Columbia Avenue at 10th Street. Refreshments will be served at 3:30.

The Van Raalte Institute is collecting email addresses of people interested in receiving notices of forthcoming events and publications. Please send your email address to jsmith@hope.edu.

*All publications available upon request, except those that are pending

**Applications Invited
Visiting Research Fellows Programs for
Academic Year 2011-12**

The Van Raalte Institute at Hope College invites applications from qualified scholars for a fellowship offered through the Visiting Research Fellows Program. Up to two fellowships per academic year, each for not more than ten weeks in duration will be awarded. Stipend: up to \$3,000, at \$300 per week.

The Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellowship was established by a grant in 2006 from the Netherland-America Foundation. The goal of this fellowship is to promote international linkage between the Netherlands and the US in order to enhance mutual understanding and respect. Stipend: up to \$5,000, at \$500 per week.

Criteria for Selection: Proposals for support must demonstrate that the proposed research fits the mission statement of the institute, that the scholar is qualified to conduct such research, and that the resources of the institute and that of the Joint Archives of Holland are essential to the conduct of that research. A current curriculum vitae should be submitted with the application. The NAF Fellowship is intended solely for respected scholars from the Netherlands.

Application Process and Deadline: The candidate is to submit a written application no later than 15 January 2011 via e-mail, fax, or post. Further information about expectations, arrangements, and the application process may be obtained from our website at www.hope.edu/vri.

Van Raalte Institute Staff (2009-2010)

Kimberly Boyd *Student Research Assistant* (2008-2010)

Donald J. Bruggink *Senior Research Fellow* (2003)

BA Central College
BD Western Theological Seminary
PhD University of Edinburgh

Elton J. Bruins *Philip Phelps Jr. Research Professor* (2002-2009), *Emeritus* (2009); *Director, VRI* (1994-2002); *Blekkink Professor of Religion, Emeritus* (1980-1992); *Professor of Religion* (1966-1980); *Dean for Arts and Humanities* (1984-1989)

AB Hope College
BD Western Theological Seminary
STM Union Theological Seminary, New York
PhD New York University

Peter Ester *Adjunct Research Professor* (2007)

BA Utrecht University
MA Utrecht University
PhD Erasmus University, Rotterdam

George Harinck *Honorary Research Fellow* (2009)

BA Leiden University
MA Leiden University
PhD VU University Amsterdam

Nella Kennedy *Senior Research Fellow, Official Translator, VRI* (2010)

AB Northwestern College
MA University of Iowa

Earl Wm. Kennedy *Senior Research Fellow* (2003)

AB Occidental College
BD Fuller Theological Seminary
ThM Princeton Theological Seminary
ThD Princeton Theological Seminary

James C. Kennedy *Honorary Research Fellow* (2010)
BSFS Georgetown University
MACS Calvin College
PhD University of Iowa

Hans Krabbendam *Honorary Research Fellow* (2009)
MA Leiden University
MA Kent State University
PhD Leiden University

Brigid Maniates *Student Research Assistant* (2009)

Jacob E. Nyenhuis *Director, VRI* (2002); *Senior Research Fellow* (2001-2002); *Provost Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Classics* (1975-2001)
AB Calvin College
AM Stanford University
PhD Stanford University

JoHannah Smith *Office Manager/Editorial Assistant* (2010)
AB Hope College

Robert P. Swierenga *A. C. Van Raalte Research Professor and Adjunct Professor of History* (1996)
BA Calvin College
MA University of Iowa
PhD University of Iowa

J. P. Verhave *Honorary Research Fellow* (2009)

BS VU University Amsterdam
MA VU University Amsterdam
PhD University of Nijmegen

Mission Statement

The A. C. Van Raalte Institute is a department of Hope College. Hence, its mission relates directly to and supports the mission of Hope College, an undergraduate liberal arts institution offering academic programs in the context of the historic Christian faith. The institute is closely related to another department of Hope College, the Joint Archives of Holland.

The mission of the institute is to honor the memory and the vision of the Reverend Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte, the founder of Holland, by studying his life and work. From this mission also is derived the scholarly investigation and publication of materials concerned with the immigration and the contributions of the Dutch and their descendants in the United States of America. Furthermore, the institute is dedicated to the study of the history of all segments of the community throughout its history.

The institute derives its vision from a letter dated 27 November 1846, by A. C. Van Raalte, written shortly after his party landed in New York. As he was headed westward, he declared, "I hope that a large colony can be established here in America which will focus its work on the Kingdom of God." His vision also extended far beyond the boundaries of Holland, Michigan, to other colonies and immigrants throughout the United States. The bold Christian vision that he had for the church, education, and community continues to have an impact on the "colony" that he found on 9 February 1847, and on the college which he helped to establish fifteen years later.

The institute carries out its educational mission not only through research and publication, but also through the sponsorship of lectures and presentations by its members and its invited guests. Through liaison with scholars and educational and cultural institutions in the Netherlands and other countries, the institute seeks to promote the understanding of the history of this community. From time to time, the institute will host visiting scholars from these countries to enable them to engage in research in our local archives and to provide a broader perspective to our own endeavors.



Van Raalte

PRESS
Holland,
Michigan