

A. C. Van Raalte Institute

Annual Report

January–December 2021

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A. C. Van Raalte Institute, Hope College

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Donald A. Luidens	Director
Jacob E. Nyenhuis	Editor-in-Chief and Publisher
JoHannah M. Smith	Project Editor

Front cover: members of the Van Raalte Institute, *l-r, seated*: Donald J. Bruggink, Earl Wm. Kennedy, Nella Kennedy, Jacob E. Nyenhuis; *standing*: Donald A. Luidens, Henk Aay, Dennis N. Voskuil, Paul Heusinkveld, Robert P. Swierenga, JoHannah M. Smith

Back cover: A. C. Van Raalte coined the college epigraph: “This is my anchor of hope for this people in the future,” paraphrasing Heb. 6:19, thus connecting God’s promise of faithfulness to the college itself.



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Hope College
Holland, Michigan
2021



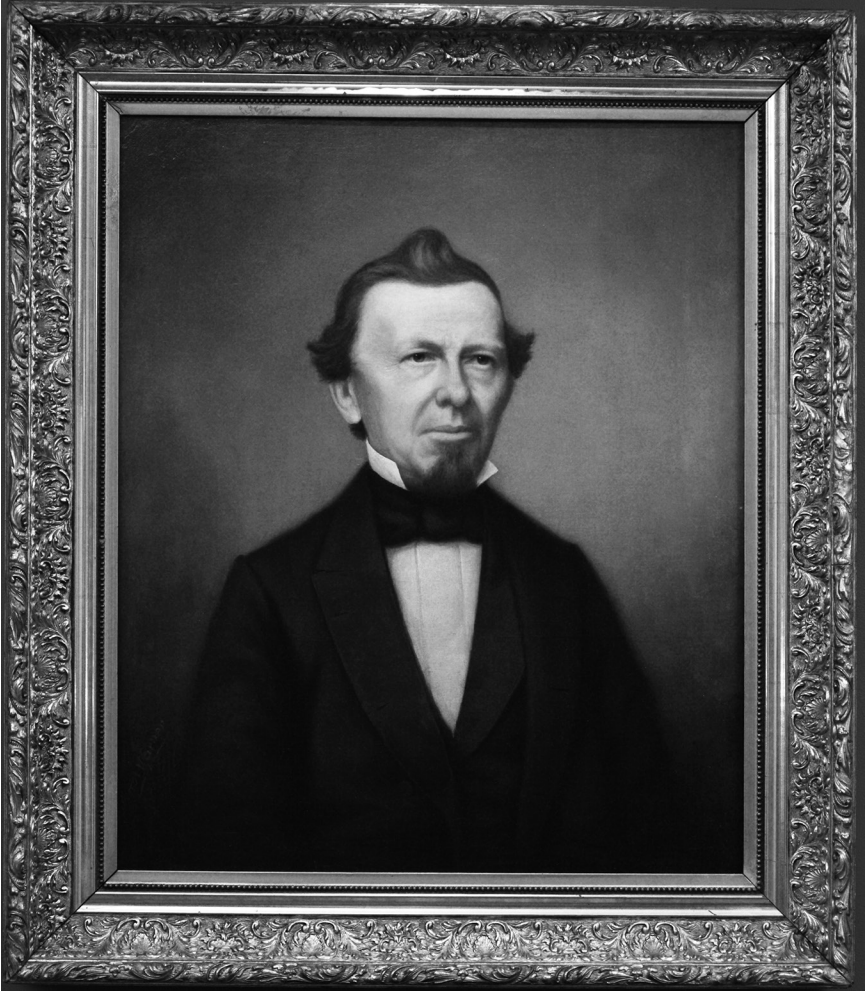


Over the years, we have used images of our Dutch tiles in our annual reports, so this year, we decided to feature them. Please see Jacob E. Nyenhuis's report for a bit of the history of decorative tiles produced in the Netherlands and a description of each of our own tiles.



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A Constant State of Emergency: Paul de Kruijff, Microbe Hunter and Health Activist

Jan Peter Verhave

RECIPIENT OF A 2020 STATE HISTORY AWARD
FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

Paul de Kruijff was a Dutch American microbiologist who sought to educate Americans on the prevention and treatment of diseases and fought for healthcare, especially for the poor. He informed, educated, and disturbed the public at large with twelve books (including *Microbe Hunters*, 1926) and hundreds of articles in popular magazines, most notably, the *Reader's Digest*. He was always after the truth, but truth was not always easy to popularize.

9781950572069, 650 pp., \$35

In Peril on the Sea: The Forgotten Story of the *William & Mary* Shipwreck

Kenneth A. Schaaf

Through a rich collection of journals, letters, personal papers, nineteenth-century maps and nautical charts, period travel literature, and a host of newspaper accounts from both sides of the Atlantic, Schaaf follows a hapless band of Dutch travelers on their trip to America during the late winter and spring of 1853. On board the ill-fated ship was a group of anxious emigrants on a perilous voyage from their tightly interwoven Frisian homeland to a new American haven.

9780989146968, 300 pp., \$30

Dutch Reformed Education: Immigrant Legacies in North America

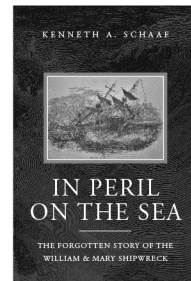
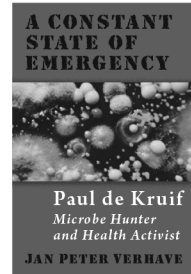
Edited by Donald A. Luidens, Donald J. Bruggink, Herman J. De Vries Jr.

PAPERS FROM THE 2019 CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF DUTCH AMERICAN STUDIES.

Sola scriptura decreed the Reformers and thereby launched a literacy frenzy. The newly christened "priesthood of all believers" necessitated that even the lowly layman know how to read and reflect on Holy Writ. Almost always, when Dutch immigrants reached the New World, they established their schools right after their churches. Indeed, worship and scholarship often occurred in the same building, under the same pastor-educator. *Dutch Reformed Education* reflects on this rich legacy.

9781732085442, 425 pp., \$25

For a full listing of VRP publications, including all
AADAS Conference publications, see hope.edu/vri



The Missionary Memoirs Series of the Van Raalte Press is dedicated to publishing heretofore untold stories of missionaries of the Reformed Church in America, the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and Hope College alumni.

Seeds of Hope, Hate, and Change: Missionary Witnesses to the Middle East in Transition, 1942-57

Donald A. Luidens

Edwin and Ruth Stegenga Luidens set sail in October 1944 for mission work in the Middle East. Over the next dozen years, they lived through the end of WW II and the British Empire; the dawn of the atomic age; the rise of Arab nationalism; the establishment of Indian, Pakistani, Egyptian, and Iraqi independence; the carving of Israel out of Palestine; and the Suez Canal crisis. Through it all, they faithfully shared their Christian message of hope and love as the exploitation of oil transformed the world around them.

Vol. 1: 9781732085459, Vol. 2: 9781732085473, 1014 pp., \$30

Margaret's Mission to Arabia, Africa, and India, 1965-2010

Paul Heusinkveld, with Margaret Doorenbos

Whether in the arid, sea-front climes of Oman or the lofty, rain-drenched reaches of western Ethiopia, educator Margaret and her husband, Dr. Harvey, settled into the local communities and found lasting friendships everywhere. Accounts of oil-induced changes to life in Oman; violent, revolutionary changes in Ethiopia; and the halting impact of modernization elsewhere are personal and vivid.

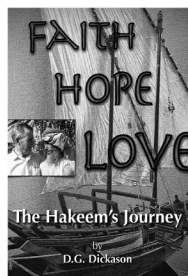
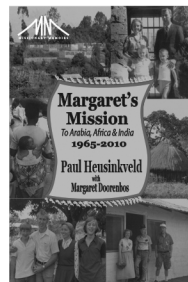
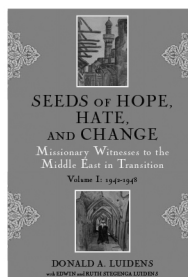
9781732085466, 317 pp., \$25

Faith, Hope, and Love: The Hakeem's Journey

D. G. Dickason

Having grown up in India and Arabia, Dr. Wells and Beth Thoms here embark on what would become a Middle Eastern medical odyssey amid the enduring privations of the Great Depression. The first eye specialist (necessarily also a general surgeon and family doctor) in the Gulf, Wells treated shaykhs, amirs, kings, and sultans in Bahrain, Qatar, the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Oman. The Thoms' story is a captivating account of courage, endurance, and soft diplomacy.

Forthcoming 2022. 9781732085404



A Message from the Director

Dear friends of the Van Raalte Institute:

This has been a remarkable year for the Van Raalte Institute, both unsettled and productive. We began 2021 under the cloud of COVID, with the college observing strict restrictions, and ended with fewer restrictions and a profound sense of gratitude for having shared remarkably good health. As will become apparent throughout this annual report, the Van Raalte Institute has been able to maintain its solid record of research despite the limitations created by the pandemic.

Margaret's Mission, by senior research fellow Paul Heusinkveld, with retired Reformed Church missionary Margaret Doorenbos, was published in 2021. It is the second in the Missionary Memoirs Series. This recently initiated series of the Van Raalte Press has already generated considerable interest, with several additional volumes underway.¹

The following projects are currently in production at the Van Raalte Press, several of which are slated for publication in 2022:

Henk Aay, *American Eyes on the Netherlands*.

Donald J. Bruggink, Dennis N. Voskuil, and William H. Katerberg, eds., *Dutch American Immigrant Stories*. Proceedings from the AADAS 2021 conference.

David G. Dickason, *Faith, Hope, and Love: The Hakeem's Journey. The Adventures of Pioneer Missionary Physician Dr. Wm. Wells Thoms, FACS, in Arabia before Oil*.

Eugene P. Heideman, with Don Bruggink, *The Canons of Dort: God's Freedom, Justice, and Persistence*.

Paul Heusinkveld, a biography of his father, Dr. Maurice Heusinkveld, including a history of the early Heusinkvelds, from the 1600s to 1961.

Nella Kennedy, in collaboration with Judy Parr and Jacob E. Nyenhuis, a comprehensive history of Dimnent Chapel, with a special focus on the stained-glass windows, along with a biography of President Dimnent.

¹ See my personal report on page 19 for more on the Missionary Memoirs Series.

George C. Kraft II, *A Place to Call Home: A Missionary Kid's Tale*.

Thomas L. Renner, *In Pursuit of Excellence. Be Strong—Be True: A History of Intercollegiate Athletics at Hope College, 1970-2020*, 2 vols., hardcover (March 2022).

Robert P. Swierenga, *Dominee Van Raalte: Dauntless Dutch Leader in the Netherlands and America*.

Robert P. Swierenga, a history of Zeeland, Michigan.

Dennis N. Voskuil, a history of Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan.

These projects would not be progressing as smoothly as they are without the able assistance of our project editor JoHannah Smith. Though not known to all of you, she is an integral partner in the VRI enterprise and is much appreciated by all who work with her.

We were also able to welcome two visiting research fellows in 2021; please find a link to their lectures at www.hope.edu/vri. During the spring of 2021, Lynn Japinga conducted research on the Reformed Church's evolving perspective on divorce, and Judy Parr joined us for the summer and fall of 2021 as she worked on a biography of Edward D. Dimnent, the fifth president of Hope College (1918-31) and the inspiration behind Dimnent Chapel.²

The Van Raalte Institute is dedicated to researching and publishing studies of nineteenth-century Dutch immigration to Western Michigan, stories of local history, and the memoirs of missionaries from the Reformed Church in America, the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and Hope College alumni.

We want to express our gratitude to all who have been supportive of the VRI and our mission. We look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes.
Don Luidens, Director
Senior Research Fellow

² See "Applications Invited," p. 69, or visit www.hope.edu/vri for more information on applying for a visiting research fellowship.



Part of our “unsettled” year involved the city’s reconstruction of Tenth Street, making the Theil Research Center almost inaccessible for several months. The road now features a north-side bike lane and south-side parking.

Reports

Senior Research Fellows

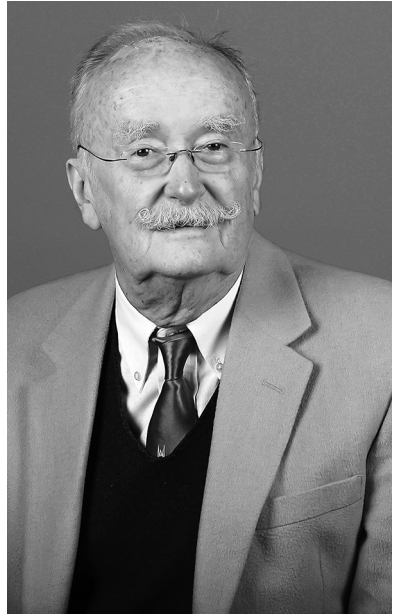
Earl Wm. “Bill” Kennedy

This year, after more than twenty years of “retired” employment, I have begun to step back from my work as an active senior research fellow at the Van Raalte Institute to engage in other pursuits during my impending tenth decade (even though I am not the oldest member of the VRI). I hope to continue in a “consulting” capacity (sharing Nella’s office) and to enjoy the fellowship of our VRI colleagues and especially the conversations at our daily coffee times.

The year 2021 saw the final editing and publication of my article “The 1903 Debate over the Founding of Orange City’s ‘Un-American’ Christian School” that appeared in Calvin University’s *Origins* 39 (no. 1), 2021, Will Katerberg, editor, early in the year.

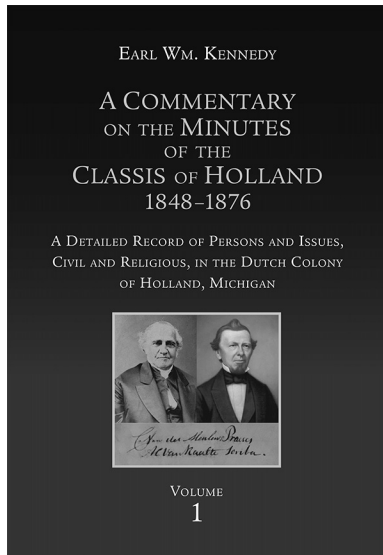
I also helped Nella in her work on A. C. Van Raalte’s years before his emigration to the United States; she is contributing fresh material for Bob Swierenga’s new Van Raalte biography. In addition, I did some research on Edward Dimment’s family background to assist Judy Parr in her work on the life of the man behind Hope College’s Dimment Chapel. Finally, I translated some material from Dutch into English, most notably for Swierenga’s next book, a history of Zeeland, Michigan.

I remain on the board of the Dutch Reformed Translation Society, whose resort to the use of Zoom for our semiannual meetings has had the unanticipated benefit of being able to expand board membership to



include persons far away from West Michigan, namely, George Harinck in the Netherlands, who also happens to be a VRI honorary research fellow.

My chief accomplishment over the years at the VRI is the publication of *A Commentary on the Minutes of the Classis Of Holland, 1848–1876: A Detailed Record of Persons and Issues, Civil and Religious, in the Dutch Colony of Holland, Michigan*, 3 vols. (Van Raalte Press, 2018), no. 94 in the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America, Donald Bruggink, general editor emeritus. I am grateful to the late Elton Bruins for commissioning this project and patiently encouraging me to bring it to completion. I was able to use not only my church-history training but also my experience with and interest in genealogy in that undertaking.



On a couple of concluding personal notes, the pandemic kept us away from our usual visits to family in the Netherlands (usually twice a year), so that we were able to see them there only in July 2021, after having last seen them in August 2019 (although a year ago, over the holidays, we enjoyed the company of some of our Dutch family in Orlando). And my “spare” time is now increasingly occupied in trying to organize, present, and preserve—for “posterity” and other family historians—the results of my lifelong hobby of genealogy and family history, with particular attention given to the ancestors’ relation to the Christian faith.



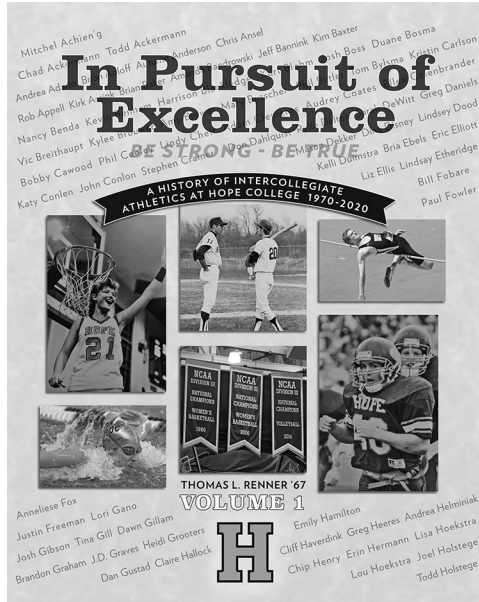
*In a Dutch market, two bouquets of tulips
for five euros, just less than six dollars*

Jacob E. Nyenhuis

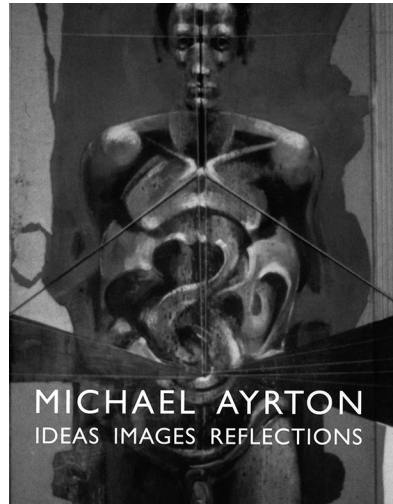
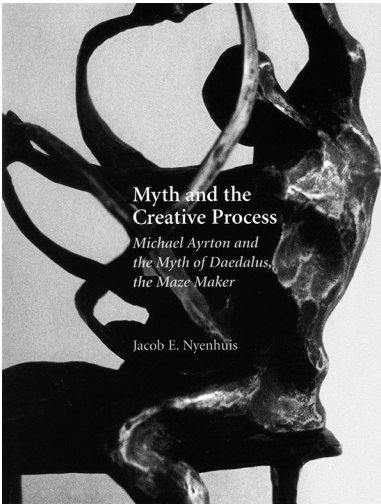
In my role as editor-in-chief of the Van Raalte Press, I have overseen various publishing projects: this has primarily involved reviewing manuscripts and making decisions on cover design. In this role, I work closely with JoHannah Smith, our superb project editor. In the past year, Van Raalte Press has published Donald A. Luidens, *Seeds of Hope, Hate, and Change: Missionary Witnesses to the Middle East in Transition*, vol. 1, 1942-48; vol. 2, 1949-57 (December 2020), and Paul Heusinkveld, *Margaret's Mission to Arabia, Africa, and India, 1965-2010* (July 2021). Paul is a senior research fellow at the Van Raalte Institute, and his book is an insightful biography of Dr. Harvey (surgeon) and Mrs. Margaret (teacher) Doorenbos, who dedicated their lives to RCA mission fields in Africa and Asia. With its publication, we launched the new Missionary Memoirs Series (MMS) of the Van Raalte Press, with Donald A. Luidens as series editor, and we designated his *Seeds of Hope, Hate, and Change*, ex post facto, the first book in the MMS. I have reviewed manuscripts of two forthcoming books in the series: George Kraft, *A Place to Call Home*, and David G. Dickason, *Faith, Hope, and Love: The Hakeem's Journey. The Adventures of Pioneer Missionary Physician Dr. Wm. Wells Thoms, FACS, in Arabia before Oil*. In addition, I have also reviewed two other books forthcoming from Van Raalte Press: Thomas L. Renner, *In Pursuit of Excellence. Be Strong—Be True: A History of Intercollegiate Athletics at Hope College, 1970-2020*, and Robert P. Swierenga's biography, *Dominee Van Raalte: Dauntless Dutch Leader in the Netherlands and America*. The year 2022 is likely to see as many books from the Van Raalte Press as the year 2020 did (five titles, six volumes).



During the past year, I have been actively engaged in activities connected with the centenary of the birth of Michael Ayrton (1921-1975), a British sculptor whose obsession with the myth of Daedalus, Icarus, the Labyrinth, and the Minotaur was the subject of my magnum



opus, *Myth and the Creative Process: Michael Ayrton and the Myth of Daedalus, the Maze Maker* (Wayne State University Press, 2003).



I was interviewed for a planned documentary on Ayrton and did the narration for a video preview of the larger project. I worked with Charles Mason, director, and Margaret Feldmann Kruizenga Curator, on an exhibition at Hope College's Kruizenga Art Museum, "Michael Ayrton's Minotaur Etchings" (May 28-August 28).

In addition, I contributed dozens of my color plates and a chapter (“Michael Ayrton’s World of Myth”) to a book, *Michael Ayrton Centenary: Ideas, Images, Reflections*, edited by Justine Hopkins, with Freja Gregory and Alex Gregory (2021). Furthermore, on October 30, I delivered the keynote address, “The Creative Power of Myth,” to the Michigan Classical Conference at their annual meeting, held via Zoom. The Stanford University Historical Society Oral History Program recently published Jacob E. Nyenhuis, *An Oral History* (Stanford University, 2021), a hardcopy record of two extensive interviews regarding my experience as a doctoral student in classics at Stanford in the late 1950s and early 1960s, conducted by Mark Pyzyk.

My other personal projects include collaboration with Nella Kennedy and Judy Parr on a book on Hope College president Edward D. Dimnent and the Dimnent Memorial Chapel, work on a family history, and a memoir. I also plan to edit a manuscript from Janet Sheeres, *Present but Not Counted: Dutch-Born Immigrant Women Working as Midwives in Dutch Colonies in the United States*.


MICHAEL AYRTON'S MINOTAUR SUITE

In Greek mythology, the Minotaur was a fearsome half-man, half-bull creature that lived on the island of Crete during the reign of King Minos in the early Bronze Age period. Legend says that the Minotaur was born from the unnatural union of Minos's wife, Queen Pasiphaë, and a sacred white bull sent to Crete by Poseidon, God of the Sea. Embarrassed by and afraid of the monstrous Minotaur, King Minos ordered his court craftsman, Daedalus, to build a maze-like structure called the Labyrinth where the Minotaur could be confined and concealed from public view. The captive Minotaur was appeased with human sacrifices for years before he was eventually confronted and killed by the Athenian hero Theseus, who was aided in his deadly effort by the Minotaur's own half-sister, Ariadne.

The compelling honor, intrigue and violence of the Minotaur myth has provided inspiration to numerous writers and artists from antiquity to modern times, perhaps none more so than the British artist Michael Ayrton. Between 1962 and his premature death in 1975, Ayrton created more than ninety paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures inspired by the myth of the Minotaur. This remarkable body of work was rooted in Ayrton's careful study of classical sources, but also reflected the fruits of his own imagination and his attempts to understand the story from the Minotaur's point of view. Rather than portray the Minotaur simply as a monster or as a symbol of brute strength and voracious appetites as many previous artists had done, Ayrton focused on the Minotaur's psychological and emotional states, emphasizing the confusion, alienation and pain felt by the Minotaur as a result of being caught between the divine, human and animal worlds.

This exhibition features a suite of ten etchings created by Ayrton in 1971 that portray the life of the Minotaur, but not its death. Ayrton encourages us to sympathize with the tragic creature and to see it as a symbol of the conflicts and contradictions that exist within our own natures. The etchings are accompanied by additional artworks that provide historical background for the Minotaur Suite and help situate the prints within the larger context of Ayrton's career.

Michael Ayrton's Minotaur Suite was organized by the Kravis Art Museum to celebrate the centenary anniversary of Michael Ayrton's birth. The museum is immensely grateful to Professor Emerita Jack Nyenhuis whose scholarship on Michael Ayrton underpins the interpretive content of this exhibition and who, along with his wife, Len, lent or donated many of the artworks included in the display.




My public service includes continuing membership on the Dutch-American Historical Commission (as secretary), the Dutch-American Heritage Day Committee, the ad hoc committee on re-establishing a West Michigan chapter of the Netherland-America Foundation (as a member of NAF), and the Emeritus Board of the Michigan Humanities Council. In November, I retired from my twenty-six-year position as coordinator of pulpit supply for Fourteenth Street Church (CRC). I have likewise continued as an emeritus member of the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens; I plan to attend its meeting in January via Zoom. In addition, I have been publishing an annual directory of Hope College retirees since 2004, and I maintain connections between and among retirees through regular updates on fellow retirees.

Excerpt: “Michael Ayrton’s World of Myth,” in *Michael Ayrton Centenary: Ideas, Images, Reflections*, Justine Hopkins, ed., with Freja Gregory and Alex Gregory (2021).

When Michael Ayrton arrived at Cumae in 1956, he intended merely to draw and paint the landscape and the people of southern Italy. His arrival there, however, has been described as “undoubtedly the most important single occurrence in his working life.”¹ While exploring the summit of the rock at Cumae, he discovered the Latin text of Virgil’s *Aeneid* VI.9-44 inscribed on stone tablets placed there, and as he explored the subterranean “labyrinth of passages that honeycomb the great rock”² whence the Cumaean Sibyl delivered her oracles, he was drawn ineluctably into the world of myth. Over the next two decades, his life and his work largely revolved around a rich cycle of Greek myth, and he produced more than eight hundred drawings, paintings, etchings, and sculptures centered around the story of Daedalus, the archetypal craftsman, and his son Icarus, as well as the Minotaur and the labyrinth that Daedalus constructed for King Minos to hide this unnatural creature. He also published two narrative versions of this myth—*The Testament of Daedalus* (1962) and *The Maze Maker* (1967). In the process, he explored, enriched, and extended this myth,

which spoke so emotively to the twentieth-century world with its fulfilment of the dream of human flight but also its creation of the means for its destructive use. Indeed, *The Testament of Daedalus* itself is more an example of mythmaking than it is a simple retelling of the myth as it exists in extant literature. *The Maze Maker* likewise involves substantial mythmaking. . . .

The figure of the Minotaur is central to the Cretan myth and to Daedalus' role in creating the labyrinth to hide him from view. When Ayrton began to draw and sculpt the Minotaur, he was keenly aware that Pablo Picasso had used the Minotaur as a recurring figure, beginning with a collage in 1928.³ The bull, of course, is a central figure in Spanish culture, with the annual, ritual, running of the bulls at Pamplona. The Minotaur, a creature known for its physical power and sexual energy, apparently became a kind of alter ego for Picasso. Ayrton admitted that the Minotaur was "dangerous ground, for at least one great living artist has been there first."⁴ His treatment of the Minotaur spanned thirteen years and consisted of nearly ninety works in every medium. The first two were the bronze *Minotaur I* (1962, MCP No. 282) and the *Seated Minotaur, Version I* (Small Minotaur) (1962, MCP No. 283), and the last was the pen, black ink and black wash *Minotaur Surprised* (10 October 1975, MCP No. 809), completed just over a month before his death. In between, Ayrton presented the Minotaur in every conceivable way: displaying alarm, fear, anguish, and rage and striking multiple poses—asleep, awaking, crouching, rising, risen, caged, and mazed; he even produced a series of ten *Minotaur Etchings* (1971, MCP Nos. 726-735), covering the complete life cycle of the Minotaur. In the process, said Ayrton, "The *Minotaur* evolved towards a human condition, the *Oracle* moved away from it towards a series of inhuman images in which her being became concentrated upon containing the prophetic voice of the god" (*Drawings and Sculpture*, above pls. 140 and 141). . . .

The more he explored this cycle of myth in his writings and in his work on paper or canvas and in bronze, the richer and more relevant these myths became. All the mythical figures that came to life through his creative imagination demonstrate

at once Ayrton's artistic versatility and at the same time the inexhaustible riches of the myth that had become his obsession. Critic T. G. Rosenthal has rightly observed that Ayrton, in combining "his twin obsessions with antiquity and the human figure... has rationalized and justified his own journey through the labyrinth of the twentieth century." Having started "with classical themes, he has created works which are wholly of our time and unquestionably and relevantly modern."⁵

Through reviving and recreating these figures from Greek myth, Ayrton has left a rich legacy in word and image that will endure for generations to come. The coils of his labyrinth unwound reveal an artist with a driving ambition to rival the great artists of past and present, such as Michelangelo and Picasso; an artist who, striving to rise to the heights of Icarus and to rival the prototypical sculptor Daedalus, significantly enriched and enlarged a long tradition of literary and artistic engagement with these myths.

1. T. G. Rosenthal, Catalogue Introduction, "Word and Image I and II, Wyndham Lewis and Michael Ayrton," (London: National Book League, 1971), 42.
 2. Michael Ayrton, "Daedalus and I," *Horizon: A Magazine of the Arts* 12, no. 2 (Spring 1970), 57.
 3. An exhibition, "Picasso, the Minotaur's studio," at the Palais Lumière in Evian, France, 30 June to 7 October 2018, also featured an extensive treatment of the Minotaur by other artists. A book of the same title, edited by curator Olivier Le Bihan, was published by Somogy Editions.
 4. *Drawings and Sculpture*, below Plate 117.
 5. T. G. Rosenthal, Catalogue Introduction, Grosvenor Gallery, London, April 1964, 26.
- * MCP: Nyenhuis, *Myth and the Creative Process*, 2003.

Dutch tiles in the Theil Research Center

When the former bank operations building at 9 East Tenth Street was acquired in 2002 by the college, it was initially used to house the Department of Psychology while their new offices were being built in the new Schaap Science Center, but in 2004, the building was remodeled to create the Theil Research Center for the A. C. Van Raalte Institute and the Joint Archives of Holland. In the planning for this new center, I decided to use imported Makkum tiles to decorate the two entrances to the building. The primary intent was to underscore

the mission of the Van Raalte Institute, with its focus largely on Dutch immigration and its legacy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but a secondary, more subtle intent, was to echo the pronunciation of the name “Theil.”

My wife and I had already used Makkum tiles to decorate the fireplace in our home on Twelfth Street and in the kitchen of our cottage in Eagle Crest, so it was natural that I would turn to Makkum again when decorating the Theil Research Center, and Nelis’ Dutch Village in Holland, Michigan, still had a sufficient number of these imported tiles on hand for our use.

In the seventeenth century, inspired by the importation of Chinese and Japanese porcelain, the Dutch town of Delft achieved world renown through its production of blue-and-white, tin-glazed pottery.¹ This pottery was made from either yellow or red clay that was covered in an opaque white tin glaze before it was decorated either in polychrome or with blue. The local clays were generally mixed with special clays imported from Tournai, Belgium, to achieve the best results. Already in the sixteenth century, Italian craftsmen had introduced the Low Countries to maiolica, a colorful pottery with a tin glaze. The use of this technique began in Antwerp but soon spread to the north during the Eighty Years War of independence from Spain (1568-1648) when the potters moved to safer towns, such as Haarlem, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Delft.

By the second half of the seventeenth century, the city of Delft had become a major location for producing ceramics similar to Chinese porcelain, which is fired at a much higher temperature than maiolica and, therefore, harder and more capable of withstanding hot liquids. The collapse of the town’s breweries had left many buildings empty and easily adapted for the ceramics industry, so there were more than thirty ceramics factories in Delft at the end of the seventeenth century. The Delft potters had largely shifted their focus from polychrome to blue-and-white decoration when they began to dip their pottery in tin glaze. Delft pottery on display in the homes of wealthy burghers can be seen in paintings by Johannes Vermeer, Pieter de Hooch, and Nicolaes Maes. Queen Mary II, the wife of King William III of Orange, the stadholder of Holland, commissioned Delft pottery for the Dutch

¹ Information in this essay is based largely on the following sources: Ella B. Schaap, *Delft Ceramics at the Philadelphia Museum of Art* (2003), and H.-P. Fourest, *Delftware: Faience Production at Delft*, transl. Katherine Watson (Rizzoli International Publications, 1980).

palace Het Loo and for Hampton Court near London, which led many aristocrats to do likewise.²

In the eighteenth century, the production in Meissen, Germany, of a hard-paste porcelain—previously perfected by the Chinese—and the production of Josiah Wedgwood’s creamware in England, presented a very serious challenge to Delft’s pottery factories. The Napoleonic Wars (1792-1815), however, sounded the death knell to most of the Delft pottery factories: only one factory, the Porcelain Bottle (founded 1653), survived the war.

Many other cities also had tile factories in the seventeenth century, but a hundred years later, these factories were mainly limited to Delft and Utrecht and the towns of Harlingen and Makkum in the northern province of Friesland. The Makkum tiles were either polychrome or undecorated, except for deep blue decorations in the corners of plain tiles (these corner decorations are called *ossenkop*, or oxhead). The very diverse subject matter on these tiles ranges from castles and windmills to ships, birds, flowers, animals, workers, musicians, and playing children. Images in richly variegated colors were painted by hand on the tiles. Although these tiles were painted in the twentieth century, the subject matter is often based on historic tiles.

In the front entrance to the Theil Research Center, next to the modern signage, you will find this array of tiles. Because these tiles were painted by different artists, there are obvious stylistic differences among them.

² Thanks to the discovery of an order from King William III himself, the maker of monumental vases at Hampton Court inscribed with the mark “A. K.” has been identified as Adriaen Kocks, of the Greek A factory in Delft.



Front entryway tiles



Details: left to right, top row: a rifleman with a sheathed saber and a rifle over his shoulder holds a rifle-stand in his left hand; an officer wearing bright yellow boots and a dressy cape with his saber in the scabbard at his side



Middle row: a drummer with a simple hat and a sheathed saber on his hip; a rifleman using his rifle stand to steady his weapon—he wears fancy yellow boots with spurs, suggesting that he may be a cavalryman, and his scabbard hangs from a striped band



Bottom row: a standard bearer wearing a plumed hat; a soldier with a saber and spear with a barbed hook

At the top of the stairs from the rear entrance are two sets of Makkum tiles, a set of three and a set of nine.

The flags on the two-masted ships on the top and bottom tiles lead one to conclude that they most likely are French ships.





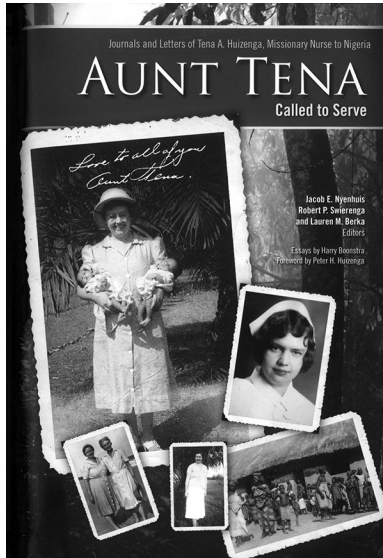
Some of these musicians appear to be part of a marching band, but the French horn player is seated, and the violinist is not marching; l-r, top: trumpeter, cellist, and hornist playing a single-reed instrument (identified as a clarinet after 1796); middle: violinist, drummer, triangle player; bottom: horn player (clarinetist?), French hornist, conductor

Those of us who work at the Theil Research Center daily, as well as our visitors, take delight in these added decorations that enhance our environs.³ We look forward to the day when pandemic restrictions are lifted, and the TRC will again be open to visitors.

³ I am indebted to Nella Kennedy for her review of this document and for her helpful perspective on these tiles.

Donald A. Luidens

New starts and ongoing projects have been on my plate this past last year. As director, I am excited about a new initiative that builds on the VRI's track record. In 2009, in collaboration with the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America and Eerdmans Publishing, the Van Raalte Institute published *Aunt Tena, Called to Serve*, edited by Jacob E. Nyenhuis, Robert P. Swierenga, and Lauren M. Berka. It provides an annotated account of the journals and letters of Tena Huizenga, an RCA missionary to Nigeria.



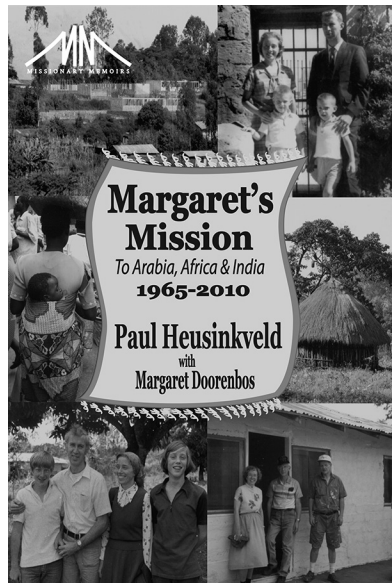
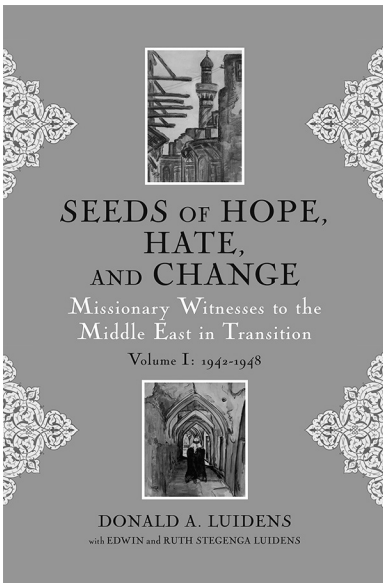
In keeping with this earlier work, and with the generous donation of an anonymous gift, the VRI announced in 2021 the establishment of the Missionary Memoirs Series (MMS) and commissioned graphic designer Marena DeLeau to create a logo:



MISSIONARY MEMOIRS

This series is dedicated to publishing the heretofore untold stories of missionaries of the Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church in North America and Hope College alumni who worked to proclaim the Christian Gospel, both at home and abroad. These books are the recorded accounts of their experiences, transformational for themselves and the people of the countries where they served.

The first volume in that series is my own, *Seeds of Hope, Hate, and Change: Missionary Witnesses to the Middle East in Transition* (2020). This publication was soon followed by Paul Heusinkveld's *Margaret's Mission to Arabia, Africa, and India* (2021), and a third publication in this series,



David G. Dickason's *Faith, Hope, and Love: The Hakeem's Journey. The Adventures of Pioneer Missionary Physician, Dr. Wm. Wells Thoms, FACS, in Arabia before Oil*, is forthcoming.

Two other volumes have also demanded my attention during the summer and fall of 2021. *A Place to Call Home*, a memoir by retired Hope College professor George Kraft, is an account of his life as the son of missionaries to China prior to and after World War II. It is a moving account of the many joys and challenges faced by this child of the missionary enterprise, a "third-culture kid" who found "a place to call home" after years of travel. This will be the fourth in the MMS, intended for publication in 2022. *A Pilgrim at Asher Creek* is the poignant memoir of Charles "Chuck" Gosselink, another "mish kid" who grew up in Basrah during the 1930s and 1940s. His home was situated on Asher Creek, one of the labyrinth of canals that crosscut Basrah, the "Venice of Iraq." His memoir extends to multiple visits to Iraq after his parents left in the early 1960s and the many transformations of his beloved, adopted homeland that he witnessed.



*George and Pearl Kraft
on their wedding day,
September 14, 1938*

A dozen other studies have been proposed for the MMS, and as series editor, I am very optimistic about its future.

Another ongoing project that has moved closer to fruition over the past year under my direction is the digitization of the Albertus C. Van Raalte papers. These documents had been carefully collected by

*George and Pearl in native dress,
just before leaving for Kangding,
ca. 1940*



the VRI's founding director, Elton J. Bruins, through years of scouring libraries and archives in the United States and the Netherlands. They have now all been scanned, and the task for the coming year is to prepare them for inclusion on Hope College's Digital Commons. The initial step, however, has been to seek permission to digitize them from the libraries, archives, and personal collections from which the documents were copied originally. This task has neared completion. When fully digitized, these papers will be available for researchers the world over, a notable form of "outreach" by the Van Raalte Institute.

Being director of the Van Raalte Institute is a great honor and pleasure. I work closely with a remarkable cadre of colleagues—bright, learned, humorous, and engaged. One could ask for no more in the context of "retirement."



*Elton Bruins' (1927-2020)
vast collection of Van Raalte
papers will soon be fully
digitized and available online.*

Robert P. Swierenga

This year I have been fine tuning a biography of A. C. Van Raalte in which I have been fully engaged for several years. Rev. Van Raalte served three congregations in the Netherlands before emigrating to West Michigan at age thirty-five in 1846 and forming what became the flagship Dutch settlement in the Midwest. He led Holland's First Reformed Church for two decades, dealt extensively in city lots and local businesses, and cofounded Hope College with Philip Phelps Jr. This definitive account of a renowned pastor on two continents will include some 175 photos, multiple maps, and other documents. The manuscript is now beginning the editorial process.

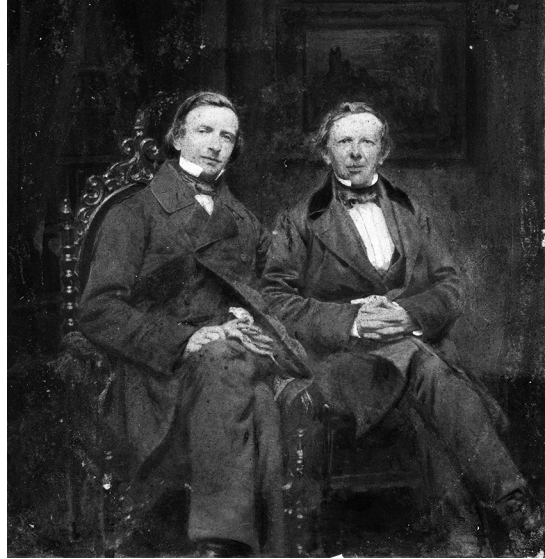


I have also joined the board of the Zeeland Historical Society and its Dekker Huis Museum, which experienced a major transition this



A drawing of Van Raalte being arrested by the mayor of Ommen and soldiers while preaching in an unauthorized (i.e., illegal) worship service, ca. 1830s

*A. C. Van Raalte and
his son-in-law, Hope
Academy professor
Rev. Peter Oggel, 1862*



year with the hiring of two full-time staff, a director, and an archivist. In connection with this affiliation, I have begun writing a history of Zeeland—Holland’s sister city—which currently lacks a comprehensive overview. It will be a shorter companion to my three-volume work, *Holland, Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City* (2014). The city of Zeeland began in July 1847 with almost 450 settlers, compared to Holland’s founding in February of that year with only fifty settlers. In 1851, however, Zeeland decided to go its own way. Jannes Vande Luyster, the “banker in the forest” and the colony’s founder, had the Michigan legislature set Zeeland Township off from Holland Township. From the outset, Zeeland was a competitor of Holland. Although the relationship between the communities was often testy, harmony generally prevailed.

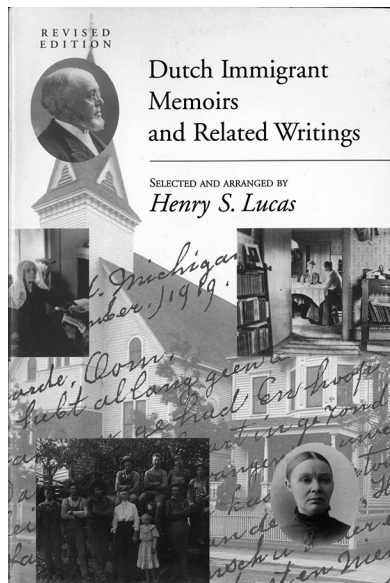
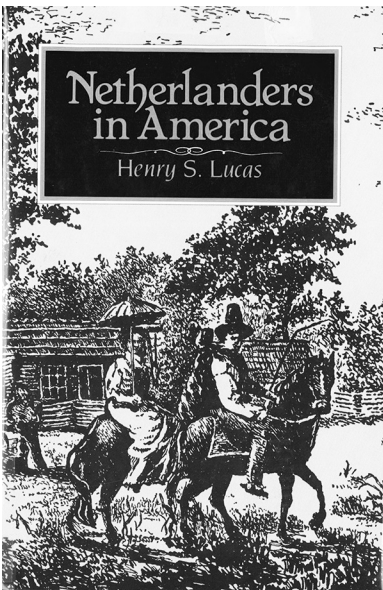
This year, I published a review of Joshua Engelsma, *Watchman on the Walls of Zion: The Life and Influence of Simon Van Velzen* (Reformed Free Publishing Association, 2020), in the *Protestant Reformed Theological Journal* 54 (April 2021): 87-91. Van Velzen was a brother-in-law and ministerial associate of Van Raalte in the Dutch Seceded Church, a leader in northern Netherlands, and long-time professor at the theological school of the Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerken (Christian Reformed Church) at Kampen, founded in 1854.

I also published a short article on Henry S. Lucas, “A Career and Faith Journey,” in *AADAS News* 21 (Fall 2021), the newsletter of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies. Lucas



Dekker Huis Museum, Zeeland, Michigan

grew up in Graafschap, Michigan, earned a doctorate in history at the University of Michigan, and had a long career as professor of history at the University of Washington in Seattle. Prompted by Holland’s centennial in 1947, he wrote the comprehensive history, *Netherlanders in America* (University of Michigan Press, 1955; Eerdmans, 1989), and subsequently published the two-volume collection of original sources, *Dutch Immigrant Memoirs and Related Writings* (in Dutch, 1955; combined



with English translations, Eerdmans, 1997). The second part of my article on this Dutch American historian extraordinaire will be published in the spring 2022 newsletter. It contains reflections on Lucas's faith journey from Dutch Reformed to Roman Catholic.

An essay, "The Dutch Midwest," coauthored with Andrew Klumpp, is slated for publication by year's end in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the American Midwest*, ed. John Lauck (Oxford University Press). Klumpp, director of the Iowa Historical Society, was a 2019 visiting research fellow.

I continue to serve on the board of the Van Raalte Farm Civil War Muster in Holland, which stages annual reenactments of significant battles in a two-day extravaganza on the grounds of the historic Van Raalte Farm Park, centered on the 1872 farmhouse of Rev. Van Raalte's son Ben and wife Julia Gilmore. Holland's Civil War Muster has become the premier such event in the state of Michigan and continues to grow in popularity. The twelfth iteration of the event in 2021 and the 2022 event have benefited from a substantial grant from the "There's No Place Like Home" initiative of Hope College, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Larry Kieft came to see the beautiful oak bookshelf in Bob Swierenga's office that he graciously funded. It was crafted locally by carpenters at De Leeuw Lumber Company to house Swierenga's permanent book collection at the Van Raalte Institute.



Nella Kennedy

“Oh, the weather outside is frightful,” so the Christmas song begins. Well, not so for us in the Netherlands where we are spending the Christmas holidays and whence I am writing this annual report. The extraordinarily balmy weather in December has set a record, so no “Eleven City Tour” for us this year. Good thing we kept our skates at home! No sunbathing either, however, for constant low-hanging clouds prevent any of the sun’s rays to penetrate.



Speaking of clouds, the only (small) one that has hung over the Van Raalte Institute this past year has been the tenacious presence of COVID. Being banned from the building, we began to meet every Wednesday on Zoom, with occasional meetings in Centennial Park, then we were allowed to enter the building in restricted numbers, and finally all of us may now gather again in the Theil Research Center. Research and writing have continued, no matter our location.

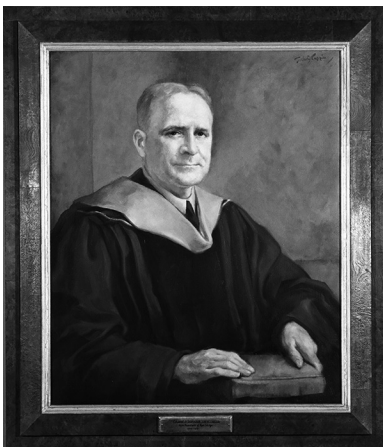
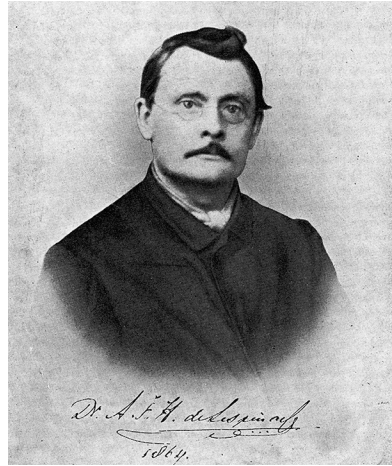
One of my projects was reading through and occasionally revising Bob Swierenga’s first six chapters of his comprehensive biography of Rev. A. C. Van Raalte. These chapters deal with Holland’s founder in the first thirty-five years of his life in the Netherlands. My knowledge of Dutch enables me to read sources in my native language, thus augmenting the chapters with additional material.

Selecting and editing my previously written plays was put on the back burner, except for one. Drawing on an earlier paper on Dr. A. F. H. de Lespinasse presented at the 1995 AADAS conference,⁴ I wrote a play to be performed at the 2021 AADAS conference. Board members of the

⁴ The proceedings of the 1995 AADAS conference were published as a mimeographed monograph, “A Century of Midwestern Dutch American Manners and Mores—and More.” To read the paper on Dr. A. F. H. de Lespinasse, see dutch-americans.org/past-conferences.

Dutch American Heritage Museum in Orange City, Iowa, produced the play, which was edited and lengthened by well-known author James Schaap to make it more theatrically suitable. My original version of the play, however, will be included in *Dutch American Immigrant Stories*, the AADAS lectures of June 2021, edited by Don Bruggink, Dennis Voskuil, and William Katerberg.

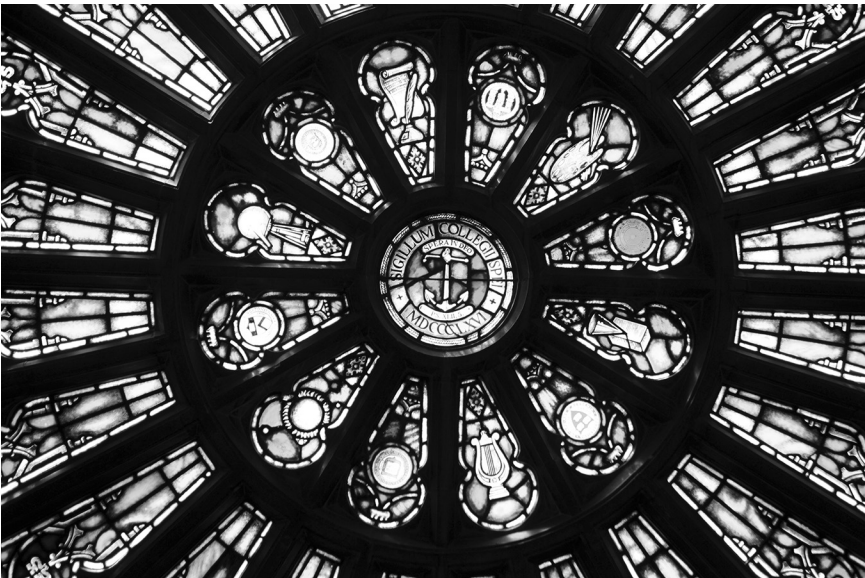
My next project will be researching and writing on Hope College's Dimnent Chapel. Although the full content of the resulting book will detail all facets of the building (plan, costs, architecture, and so forth.), I myself will pay particular attention to the stained-glass windows. Large, color photographs should be the prominent feature of the book. A companion volume, a biography of Hope president Edward D. Dimnent, for whom the chapel is named, is being written by visiting research fellow Judy Parr. The research detailed in *Hope College at 150*, will be a significant springboard. The two volumes will most likely be published as a set. There are always other small projects that beckon, but *D.V.*, these will wait.



*Edward D. Dimnent, fifth president
of Hope College, 1918-31*



Dimnent Chapel, Hope College

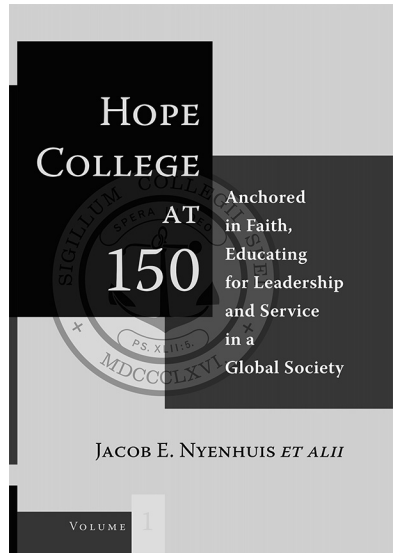


Rose Window, Dimnent Chapel



Sanctuary, Dimnent Chapel

The history and design of Dimnent Chapel is covered extensively in "The Architecture of Hope," chapter 4, in Hope College at 150, by Jacob E. Nyenhuis et alii (VRP, 2019).



Excerpt: A truncated vignette from a play written by Nella Kennedy about the Dutch doctor A. F. H. de Lespinasse who practiced medicine in Orange City from 1874 to 1881. The well-educated author, playwright, and avid Freemason was both controversial and respected in this recently established and orthodox Dutch community.

PARK BENCH, HASSELT, THE NETHERLANDS, 1870. A seated physician calls out to a colleague, walking past.

A: [Holds newspaper, looks up] Good morning, Piet. Do you have a minute? I want to show you something.

B: Sure, but I cannot stay long.

A: Take a seat! I can't believe this. Did you see this sales ad in our Overijssel paper?

B: Yah. A shocker! De Lespinasse is selling his household goods.

A: [both read] Several tables, chairs, mirrors, paintings, bookcases, beds and mattresses, carpets, sofa's, a little piano . . . *and* a complete pharmacy!

B: What's even more amazing is that he has already left for America, and without his second wife and eldest daughter.

A: Puzzling! He had a flourishing practice . . . and he has an excellent reputation in the medical field! I have been prescribing his antifever pills for my patients. With good results.

B: [takes something out of his pocket]: I carry this with me all the time. He wrote it in 1854. *Pocket Book of Knowledge of Medicine and the Art of Healing*.

A: Competent physician. But he was much too liberal for me. He wrote many articles in that freethinker magazine . . . the . . . I forget the name.

B: Well, Jacob. I must be off. *Bonjour, mon ami*. [leaves]

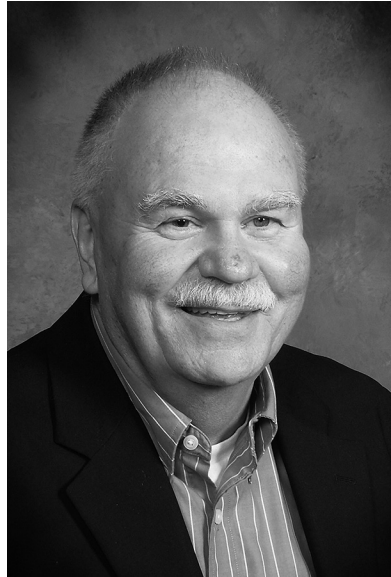
A: Goodbye. [softly] I think I'll go to the sale. I might like to buy that little piano for Antoinette!



The Koppelpoort city gate in Amersfoort, built in the fourteenth century (visible from son James Kennedy's house)

Dennis N. Voskuil

Despite the challenges posed by COVID, including the closing of the Theil Research Center and the transition to working remotely, I have continued to pursue my major project—writing the history of Western Theological Seminary. Although a few journal articles have been written on the history of the seminary, no comprehensive treatment of the institution has yet been published.

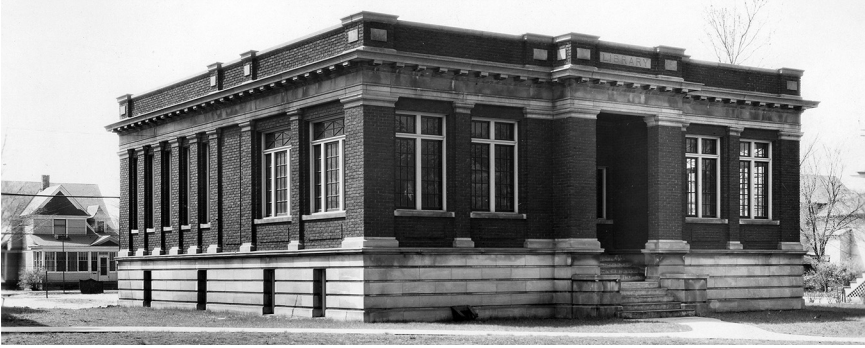


In the fall of 2021, I participated in a two-part colloquy on theological education in the RCA, sponsored by the Reformed Church Center at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey. In October, I responded during a Zoom meeting to Prof. John Coakley’s presentation on the history of NBTS. On November 3, I reciprocated with a Zoom presentation on the history of Western Theological Seminary. I was pleased with the response to my presentation since it provides a framework for my long-term project.

I continue to be grateful for the congenial atmosphere of the VRI and for my supportive colleagues.



*Gardner A. Sage Library at New Brunswick
Theological Seminary, New Jersey*



Beardslee Memorial Library, built in 1913, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan



Semelink Hall, built in 1895, Western Theological Seminary

Donald J. Bruggink

Although the publication of lectures presented at the 2021 Scholte Conference (initiated by George Harinck) in Pella, Iowa, has been delayed by the many vicissitudes of the pandemic, my duties as part of its editorial triumvirate have been completed.

Also in 2021, I was assigned to head another editorial triumvirate to prepare the lectures given at the June virtual presentation of the AADAS conference, “Telling, Sharing, and Preserving Dutch American Stories.” There were many familiar faces among the presenters, but the nature of the conference was



intended to attract newcomers with stories to tell, and in that respect, it was successful in ferreting out both previously untold stories and their eloquent authors (see excerpt below).

Readers will be delighted to find accounts of some Dutch immigrants who were not directly beholden to either Van Raalte or Scholte; some were at the center and others on the periphery of the immigrant population. Near the center (at least in Patterson, NJ) was Abraham Vermeulen, undertaker and magistrate, who presided with an Irish magistrate over a binational case of adultery. At the periphery: Major Edward Wynkoop, who wrote in his resignation from the military, “I most certainly refuse to again be the instrument of murder of innocent women and children”; Gerben DeVries, Florida promotor and creator of an Indian legend and appropriate pageant; and Wessel Eldrenkamp, who helped forty-six converts to Mormonism in the Netherlands find their way to Ogden, Utah.

My work on a history of the Dutch American Historical Commission has been set aside to do editorial work on Eugene P. Heideman’s commentary on the Canons of Dort. Difficult health issues experienced by both Gene and his wife Mary brought to an end the copious writing of several, undated, “final” manuscripts of not only the entire book but also multiple and various parts of the book.

EBOYGAN (WIS.) PRESS, TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1954



THE THREE YOUNG MEN pictured above were ordained into the Gospel ministry of the Reformed Church in America during a ceremony at the Alto Reformed Church, Fond du Lac County, Monday evening. They are, from the left: Donald Bruggink, son of Mrs. John Bruggink, Cedar Grove; Eugene Heideman, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Heideman, Hingham, and Alton Bruins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bruins, Brandon, Fond du Lac. All are recent graduates of the Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Mich. Presiding at the ordination service was the Rev. R. C. Lubbers, pastor of the Gibbville Reformed Church.

Sheboygan, Wisconsin, newspaper image of Donald J. Bruggink, Eugene P. Heideman, and Elton J. Bruins at their ordination



Joined for coffee by Gene Heideman, l-r, seated: Don Bruggink, Gene Heideman, Nella Kennedy, Bill Kennedy, standing: Dennis Voskuil, Paul Heusinkveld, Henk Aay, Don Luidens, Kent Fry, Jack and Lee Nyenhuis (2021)



A birthday party, at age ninety-two, with dear friends and colleagues

As Gene's friend, and frequent colleague, from college to retirement, often with overlapping careers in the RCA, I consider it an honor to see to publication his superb work on the canons.

The exigencies of the pandemic have also resulted in a diminution of my work, assisted by the talented Western Theological Seminary library staff, on the digitization of my photos. The previously digitalized photos and their commentary, however, have now been recorded with proper metadata through the good offices of Steve Michaels for the architectural tours for the Interfaith Forum on Art and Architecture, conducted by myself in Mexico and Japan. Steve has also provided a URL for easy access to the twelve folders containing a total of 2,777 photos already online: <https://j.mp/3DR77S8>.

Excerpt: Stephen T. Staggs, "Instruments of Murder: Major Edward Wynkoop and Captain Henry Wessels Jr." in *Dutch American Immigrant Stories* (VRP, forthcoming).

"After this incident, the Heévâhetaneo'o and Nawathi'neha scattered, raiding settlements in Kansas and Nebraska. Once again, Wynkoop escorted US peace commissioners to meet with Heévâhetaneo'o and Nawathi'neha leaders in October 1867. Along the banks of the A-ya-dalda-pa (Medicine Lodge River), US officials tried to convince them to move their people onto reservations established in Indian Territory. Refusing to give up their lands along the Oke-see-

sebo, many of them refused to sign the Treaty of Medicine Lodge. Instead, Heévâhetaneo'o and Nawathi'neha warriors continued assailing Euro-American settlements over the course of the next year. The US Army responded by launching a winter campaign in 1868, led by General Philip Sheridan and Lieutenant Colonel Custer. On November 27, 1868, Custer led the 7th US Cavalry in a dawn attack on Mo'ohtavetoo'o's peaceful camp along the Hawaastatkiicu (Washita River). Counted among the dead were Mo'ohtavetoo'o and his wife. The following day, Wynkoop resigned his post as Indian agent of the Heévâhetaneo'o and Nawathi'neha. In his resignation letter, he wrote, 'I most certainly refuse to again be the instrument of murder of innocent women and children.'"

Henk Aay

American Eyes on the Netherlands

In early 2021, I decided to substantially expand the final chapter of my manuscript, *American Eyes on the Netherlands: Film, Public Diplomacy, and Dutch Identity, 1943-74*, and add a subtitle: *Including a Survey of Dutch Visual Media in America, from the Seventeenth to the Twenty-First Centuries*.

I did so with the aim and hope of increasing the readership of this book beyond just those interested in a specialized and academic study of the Dutch documentaries distributed by the Netherlands Information Bureau/Service in the United States



from 1943 to 1974. My intention was to write a relatively brief final chapter situating the NIB/NIS films into the other Dutch visual media available in the United States before, during, and after this unique program of Dutch diplomacy.

I decided, instead, to produce an historical survey in more detail, one that looked at Dutch art, prints, photographs, fiction films, and other documentaries that had reached the United States. I noted their use, content, technology, availability, and messaging to the American public, to Dutch Americans, and to Dutch immigrants from the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries. All the while, I compared and evaluated the NIB/NIS program over against these other visual media. This work has embedded the NIB/NIS film diplomacy into the larger history of Dutch visual culture in the United States. It has required considerable additional research and surveys of newspapers, magazines, photography collections, and film guides/databases and resulted in an eighty-plus page final chapter—"More American Eyes on the Netherlands"—in a nearly four hundred page manuscript.

Because this manuscript is all about *visual* media, I would like readers to encounter many stills, paintings, and photographs and give these images a prominent and privileged place—large dimensions, one to a page, with detailed captions. I have selected more than two

hundred visual media throughout the manuscript and related them to the text. I am sure our project editor and editor-in-chief will weigh in on my intent, but there it is.

Mapping Dutch North America: Atlas of Dutch American History and Culture

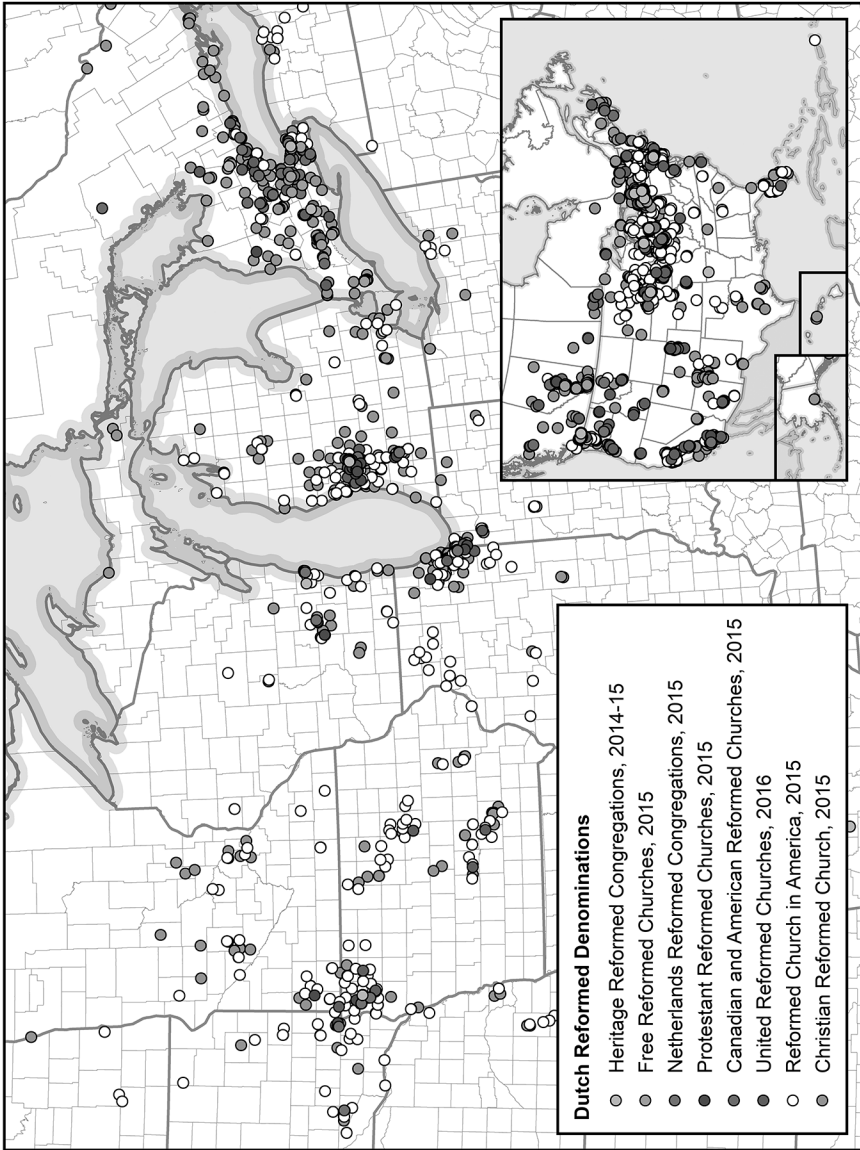
This is a long-term project that continues to make slow but steady progress. Once *American Eyes on the Netherlands* is out of the way, I will be able to spend most of my time on this atlas. It is very enjoyable, labor-intensive work in that much of the subject matter in the atlas and printed tables, as well as other data, must be scanned and formatted into editable Excel databases to which geographic coordinates are added before mapping software can be applied and maps designed. For much of 2021, the eight Dutch Reformed denominations in North America have been the focus of my attention. Hope students had earlier prepared databases at five- or ten-year intervals from the yearbooks of these different churches.

Megumu Jansen's technical work on my maps has been indispensable.



Megumu Jansen, third-year architecture student at the University of Minnesota and Calvin University geography graduate, has worked part time for the VRI to convert these data into maps that he and I have designed. These maps document and graph the changing distribution of congregations and membership at continental, regional, and local scales. We rounded out this section of the atlas by combining all the data and produced more comprehensive maps at various scales—as well as graphs—of all the different Dutch Reformed congregations and adherents in North America together. As an example, the 2015 North America map of the distribution of Dutch Reformed congregations is shown here.

De gansche aarde is van Zijn heerlijkheid vol; de Nederlandse Christelijke Reisvereniging, 1922-2022 (The whole earth is full of his glory; the Dutch Christian Travel Association, 1922-2022)



Map of congregations of Dutch Reformed Denominations in North America, mid-2010s. Note: where congregations on this map are superimposed, those belonging to the denomination with the smallest number of congregations are on top.

Because I am very familiar with the career and publications of the Dutch Christian geographer Arie van Deursen (1891-1963) and have written several articles about his work and worldviews, I was asked in December 2020 to join a small advisory/editorial board to support Peter Bak, the writer commissioned by the Nederlandse Christelijke Reisvereniging (NCRV) to write the centenary history of the association. For forty years (1923-63), until his death, Van Deursen led this organization for nearly the entire period as its chairperson. There were four national travel organizations in the Netherlands based on worldview (Protestant, Roman Catholic, socialist [laborer], and neutral), and this is the first history of these unique travel organizations that were part of the sociopolitical and religious organization of the country. The committee has commented on two of the projected five chapters so far; the book, the main title of which is taken from Isaiah 6:3, should be published in late 2022 and looks very promising.

Conference: Engage—Celebrating the Past and Imagining the Future, October 27-28, 2021, Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC

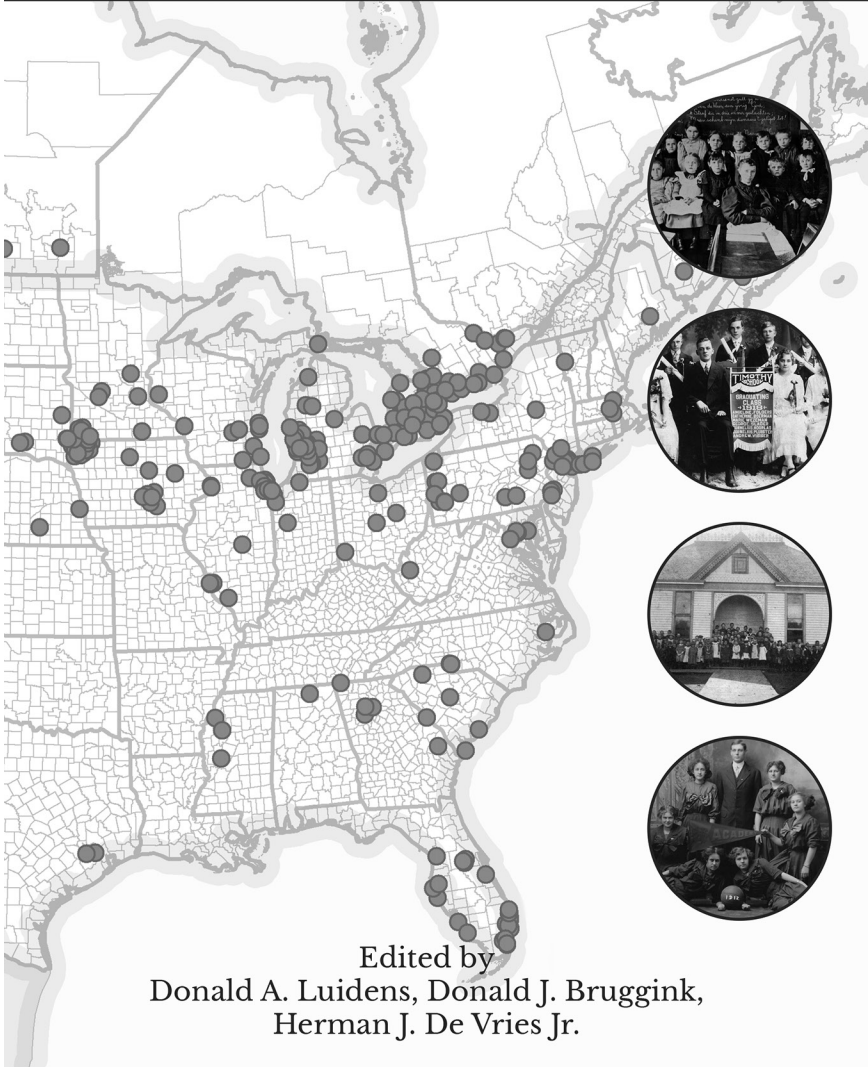
The Center for the Advancement of Christian Education organized this two-day conference that drew some eighty people. The first day focused on and celebrated the one hundred-plus year history of Reformed Christian day schools in North America and the second day centered on imagining what the next century in Christian education might look like. The National Union of Christian Schools (NUCS)—now Christian Schools International (CSI)—was founded in 1920, but the earliest Dutch Reformed day schools in North America date from 1638.

Those registered for the conference received online reflections and readings beforehand for each day so they could more fully appreciate, understand, and engage the keynote speakers. My chapter in *Dutch Reformed Education*, “Present from the Beginning: Reformed Dutch Day Schools in North America, 1638-2019,” served as one of the readings for the first day. The VRI also sent copies of this volume plus a Van Raalte Press flyer about the book for the conference book table.

The conference organizers displayed some of the maps about the history of Reformed Dutch day schools that Megumu Jansen and I have prepared for the atlas. One of these maps—Reformed Christian day schools in North America in 1960—became part of the masthead of the conference materials.

Dutch Reformed Education

Immigrant Legacies in North America



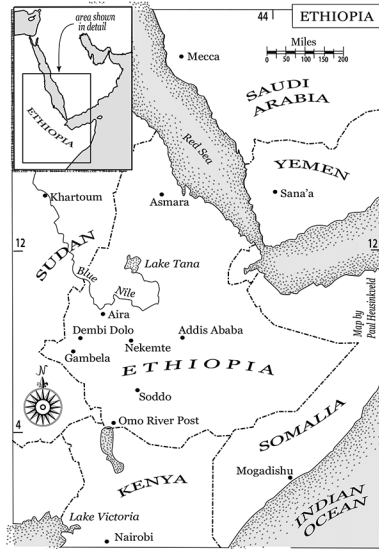
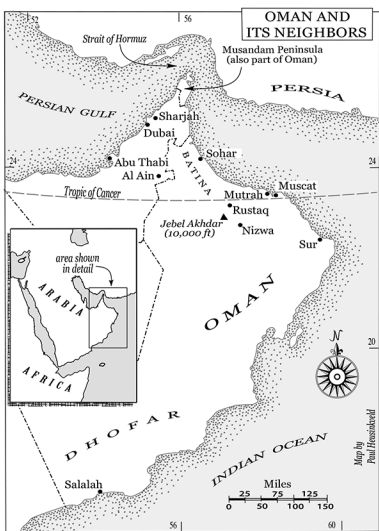
Edited by
Donald A. Luidens, Donald J. Bruggink,
Herman J. De Vries Jr.

Paul Heusinkveld

The most noteworthy item related to my work at the VRI during this period is that in May 2021, I became a senior research fellow. This honor is very exciting for me as I pursue my long-held dream of researching and documenting stories—particularly of missionaries with the RCA’s Arabian Mission—that not only inspire others to dedicate their lives to missions but also serve as a means of reconciliation and peace and goodwill between the East and West.



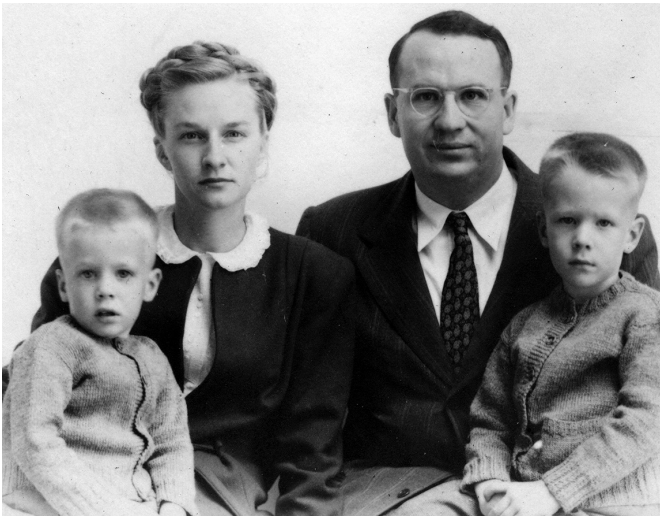
I also finished the manuscript for *Margaret’s Mission*, which then went through the editorial and formatting phases and was subsequently approved for publishing by the Van Raalte Press. I created eight maps—Bahrain, Cameroon, Ethiopia, South India, Liberia, Malawi, Oman, and Sudan/Kenya—and designed the layout. Project editor JoHannah Smith managed the publication via Kindle Direct Publishing at Amazon. The project has taken four years to complete, and many people have enjoyed reading the book. The intention of this



book is to celebrate the lives of Dr. Harvey and Margaret Doorenbos who dedicated their lives to making the world a better place. Hopefully, it will inspire others to follow in their footsteps or into other similar Christian service.

Meanwhile, I continue work on four other major projects:

A biography of my father, Dr. Maurice Heusinkveld, a member of the Arabian Mission, is my primary focus right now. The book will include a history of the early Heusinkvelds and the events and circumstances that inspired Maurice to decide to become a missionary in Arabia. The timeline of the book is from the 1600s to 1961, when I left the mission field and went to boarding school in India.



*Dr. Maurice and Elinor Heusinkveld, with sons,
Terry (left) and David, arriving in Kuwait in 1946.
Paul was born in 1950.*

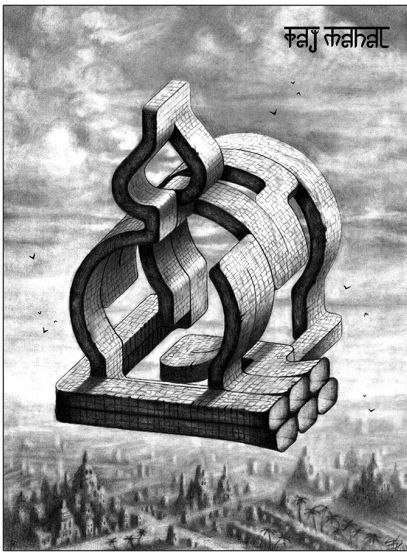
I am also reworking my biography of Eleanor Calverley, a missionary with the RCA's Arabian Mission from 1909 to 1929. She was the first woman doctor to Kuwait, and the government of Kuwait has published a biography of her in Arabic, attesting to how highly she is viewed by the Kuwaiti Arabs. During my two tours at the US Embassy in Kuwait, I heard many stories of this courageous woman. My goal is to retell her adventurous story as a means of reconciliation between East and West and between Kuwait and the United States, as well as to inspire young women looking for role models.

I continue to prepare Harvey Staal's translation of the Arabic Bible for publication and have composed a fairly complete, almost-final

draft of the book, with pictures and maps included. This rare Bible (a single copy exists at St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai) was written in 867 AD and provides unique insights into Christianity. Staal's translation, printed in a small publishing run in 1984, is virtually unavailable and in a format difficult to read. My goals are to reformat the text and add pictures, maps, and appendices to make it much more readable and for the additional content to add historical and cultural context to this rare document. I have been working on this project for more than a decade.

Finally, I am organizing a compendium of rare documents about the history of the Arabian Mission, currently titled "Lost Histories of the Arabian Mission." This project involves scanning numerous documents and digitizing them into editable text. The documents include the field reports of the Arabian Mission, which began in 1890, as well as other documents. Many of these rare documents are too fragile to be used by the public; the intent, therefore, is to make them available for study by academics as well as the general public. The reports provide a unique documentation of the history and culture of the Arabian Gulf region.

One of my many hobbies is drawing visual illusions, reminiscent of the art of Dutch artist M. C. Escher, who has been enduringly popular



Mindscape TAJ, object is to find a route from one opening to another.



Mindscape RINGHENGGE, object is to find a path from the plus to the minus signs.

over the last four decades. My artwork consists of three-dimensional drawings called Mindscapes—puzzlers of intertwining tubes in which the viewer must find the route from one opening to another. The drawings are a combination of art and puzzles. In December, I published *Mindscapes: Escher's Challenge*, available on Amazon.

Reports

Dutch Honorary Research Fellows

George Harinck

In looking back on my publications of 2021, I realized America had been on my mind on a regular basis even though I had been unable to visit the country for two years. Maybe I was driven by a kind of homesickness that compelled me to publish several articles and a book on Dutch-American relations.

One article has to do with the centenary of Abraham Kuyper's death (1837-1920). I recalled in this article my reading aloud in January 2015 a meditation by Kuyper on Psalm 103, written at the death of his youngest son, Willy, in 1892, at just nine years old. For a documentary on Kuyper's trip to the United States in 1898, I read sections of this meditation for the camera in the freezing cold of New England, next to the grave of Jesse McCord, just six years old when he was killed in the school shooting in Sandy Hook, December 14, 2012. It was meant as consolation for Scarlett, Jesse's mother, with whom we visited his grave. It was heartbreaking.



*At the grave of
Jesse McCord*

Another article was on the kappa that Kuyper received when he was awarded an honorary doctorate at Princeton University. The kappa is kept in the collection of the HDC Centre for Religious History at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. These two articles were small, but I also published an academic article, an overview of the early export of neo-Calvinism from the Netherlands to the United States.



*Abraham Kuyper with his kappa
(an academic shawl honorary doctors
wear over their black gown).*

ARBEITEN ZUR HISTORISCHEN UND SYSTEMATISCHEN THEOLOGIE
George Harinck

Nicolaus Martin Steffens
1839–1912

"Leben unter einem abnehmenden Mond"

LIT

ESTABLISHED 1857
DE HOPE

**"We live presently under
a waning moon."**

**Nicholaus Martin Steffens as leader
of the Reformed Church in America
in the West in years of transition
(1878-1895)**

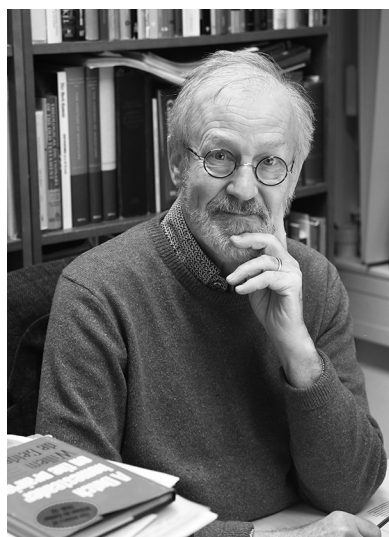
by George Harinck

Van Raalte Institute Visiting Research Fellows Lecture Series, no. 7

The book I published, *Nicolaus Martin Steffens, 1939-1912*, is the German translation of the book on Steffens I wrote portions of at the VRI based on my research there in the summer of 2008 as a Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellow.

At present, I am working on a book (also based partly on my research at the VRI and Heritage Hall, Calvin University) on the academic relations of Vrije Universiteit and Theological School Kampen with the American academic institutions Hope College, Western Theological Seminary, Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, and Princeton Theological Seminary. I hope to finish the project in 2022.

Jan J. Boersema, with Anthonia Boersema-Bremmer



The year 2021 was not a “normal” year due to the still-prevailing pandemic. For my wife, Anthonia, and myself, that meant we could not make our fifth study trip to Holland, Michigan, due to US-government entry restrictions. We have now planned that trip for autumn 2023. In the meantime, my guest position at the Institute of Environmental Sciences, Leiden University, is still ongoing.

Over the past year, we have continued to work on our book “The Wilderness has been made to Blossom. Nineteenth-Century Dutch Immigrants and the Civilization of the Wild West.” This book will be published in Dutch by Atlas/Contact publishers. We (and the publisher) think there is interest in this history in the Netherlands because little has been written about this aspect of emigration. An English adaptation and translation may follow later. Anthonia accompanies me at the institute one or two mornings each week. She collects quotes from primary sources, and I read a lot of secondary sources and write the story.

Last year, I also made a photo book with text (120 pp.) of our research project and our four previous trips to Holland, Michigan. A copy of it is in the Elton J. Bruins Library at the Van Raalte Institute.

My Easter Island research resulted in another article last year, “The Human Giants of Easter Island (Rapa Nui): Eighteenth-Century



Jan and Anthonia work together on research and publication

Fake News and Its Significance for Understanding the Persistence of Present-Day Myths,” in Valenti Rull and Christopher M. Stevenson, *The Prehistory of Easter Island (Rapa Nui): Towards an Integrative Interdisciplinary Framework* (Springer International). A major international conference is on the agenda for next June, which I am organizing as chairman of the Dutch Easter Island Foundation, together with others at Leiden University.

Finally, I spend a lot of time in my position as confidential counselor for all (approximately 600) PhD students in the science faculty. Fortunately, not all of them have problems.

James C. Kennedy

I continue to be involved in several projects relating to Dutch contemporary history. In October of 2021, I published an essay (as a small book) *Aan het werk*, which discusses changes in the Dutch work ethic since the Second World War. Was there ever such a thing as a clearly defined Protestant work ethic? Hard to prove. But the Dutch still work hard, at least during the relatively few hours in which they do work. I have been invited to give talks and interviews on this subject.



These past few weeks, I have been finishing a research project on Dutch church-state relations along with my colleague Mart Rutjes at the University of Amsterdam. What happened to the institutional pluralism associated with Abraham Kuyper after the sharp decline of church membership and rise of Islam? We follow how the government maintained relations with faith-based organizations but that their demands sharpened over time. We show how.

With Toine Pieters, I am beginning to research and write a synthesis on Dutch drugs history. Two of our PhD students are defending their dissertations on the subject this year, and we promised an overarching interpretation of major developments. Once widely admired for its “progressive” drug policies, the Netherlands nowadays is rarely viewed as a model. We are exploring and analyzing these developments.

As professor of community engaged learning, my task is to assist Universiteit Utrecht with promoting forms of teaching and learning that are grounded in strong relationships with societal partners. This kind of education is getting off the ground in the Netherlands, and it is exciting to push developments along. We are planning important conferences for the fall of 2022 after I conduct research in the Western Hemisphere this spring.

Hans Krabbendam

Most of my energy in the year 2021 was spent to keep our institute, the Catholic Documentation Center (KDC, Katholiek Documentatie Centrum, in Dutch), afloat and to help researchers get access to the archive collections when lockdowns closed the physical locations. We were able to tailor our services as best as we could to help each patron.

My own research time is limited, and I seek to contribute to the current attention for the preservation of religious heritage in the Netherlands. The awareness of



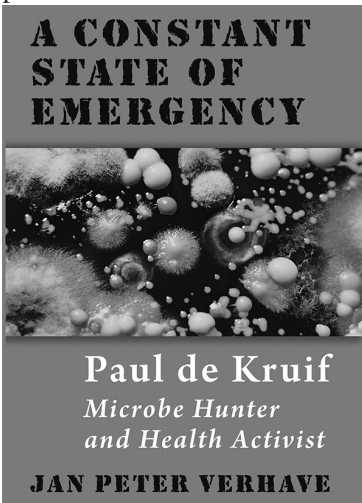
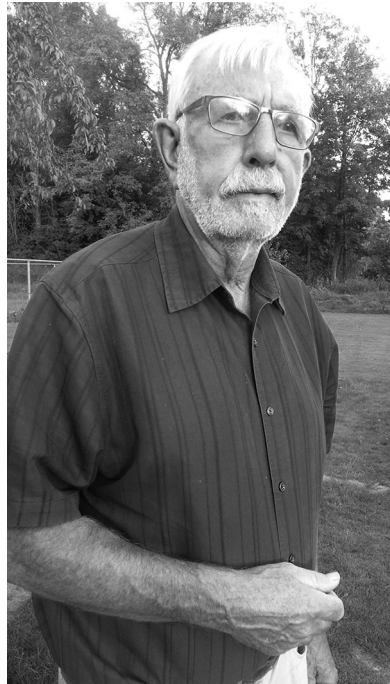
its value for keeping our society connected is growing almost as fast as church buildings are closing. I try to bring in the argument that this attention should go beyond buildings and take into account the context of their development by linking them to archival collections.

Institutionally, the KDC invests significant resources in stimulating research in the dynamics of migration and religion, linking the sources of Dutch missionary activities in Indonesia with Dutch sources that contain such a wealth of information about Indonesia. A second aim is to collect the sources of various Catholic immigrant communities in the Netherlands. “Shared heritage” is the buzz word. As part of this theme, we make an effort to link the records of (mostly Catholic) Dutch emigrants to Australia, in cooperation with the National Archives in The Hague.

Jan Peter Verhave

My biography of Paul de Kruif, *A Constant State of Emergency*, came out in early 2020 (Van Raalte Press), just as COVID hit the United States. There were several favorable reviews, one in the *Netherlands Journal for Medical Microbiology* 28 (no. 2), 92-93. The reviewer ends: “PdK undoubtedly had major merits, but he was not a sort of Napoleon of whom Dutch readers would like to know everything.”

The sales have been light, probably because those interested have had their heads and hands occupied with present-day problems of public health and health care (how prescient the title). Jack Nyenhuis, editor-in-chief of the Van Raalte Press, proposed the book for both the Dan David Prize and the Historical Society of Michigan’s State History Award. The latter attempt worked out in October 2020, and we were all pleased.



The book is available at hope.edu/vri, and in checking WorldCat, I learned that Utrecht University in the Netherlands has the book in their library collection, as well as two libraries in the United Kingdom and four in the United States. I wrote letters to the librarians of eight other Dutch universities with medical schools, inviting them to consider adding it to their collections. I was scheduled for a lecture at an ecumenical circle in my hometown last December. The subject was on De Kruif’s involvement

in the scientific search to control polio and the attempts to develop a vaccine, but the lecture was called off due to lockdown. An article for the above journal is underway: “Paul de Kruif and the Science Fiction on Bacteriophages in *Arrowsmith*” (in Dutch). My article on vaccination fear (i.e., cowpox vaccine) among nineteenth-century Dutch Christians and one MD as their leader, appeared in the same journal (vol. 29, no. 2) (nothing to do with PdK).

Artistic inheritance of a learned woman

In 2017 Nella Kennedy invited Anne Larsen of Hope College and me to share our knowledge about the seventeenth-century scholar and artist Anna Maria van Schurman (1607-1678) with students and colleagues. Van Schurman was a phenom in language, philosophy, and theology, as well as in embroidery, music, drawing, engraving, and paper cutting. My late wife, Joke (1945-2020), and I included many of Van Schurman’s paper cuttings in our book *Onbekend en ontroerend erfgoed: Tijdsbeelden geknipt door anonieme kleinkunstenaars* (Journey Press, 2017).



*Anna Maria van Schurman
as a young woman*



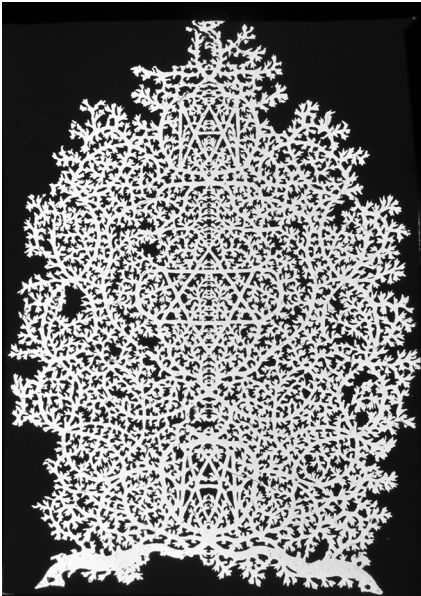
*A book of paper cuts compiled by
Joke and Jan Peter Verhave*

Anna Maria’s skill was evident when, as a mere child of six, she could make complicated cutouts of many types of figures. Her friend, the poet Cats, does not mention her craft in his extensive account of her many abilities in his *Trou-Ringh* (wedding ring) of 1637, so we know hers must have been just an occasional pursuit. Only once in her own

writing does she mention a paper cut that she had made herself (noted below).

Anna Maria is a noted pioneer in paper cutting in the Netherlands because some of the paper-cut specimens in her estate—many of which were gifted to her—have survived over the centuries. One of them is a fine heraldic piece cut for a member of the Van Schurman family. We could prove that it was not made by—or for—Anna Maria but rather by a second cousin who managed her estate; this specimen must have slipped into her inheritance. We discovered some ten other heraldic miniatures in the same style, made around 1700 for dignitaries in the Dutch republic.

Another delicate piece that was kept represents a stylized bush with the letters *A* and *M* and a hexagram. We think it was made as a present for her because she was called “the Star of Utrecht,” and one would not honor oneself with such a laurel. It may have been made by a French admirer, Marie Forget, who had it sent to professor Salmasius in Leyden, with the request to forward it to Anna Maria in 1639. Salmasius described it as “une decoupure fort delicate faite à la pointe de ciseau” (a very delicate cut made with scissor point). Salmasius was hesitant to contact the learned mademoiselle because he did not know her. Eventually, he sent her a letter, presumably with the paper cut enclosed, and subsequently, Anna Maria visited him and his family.



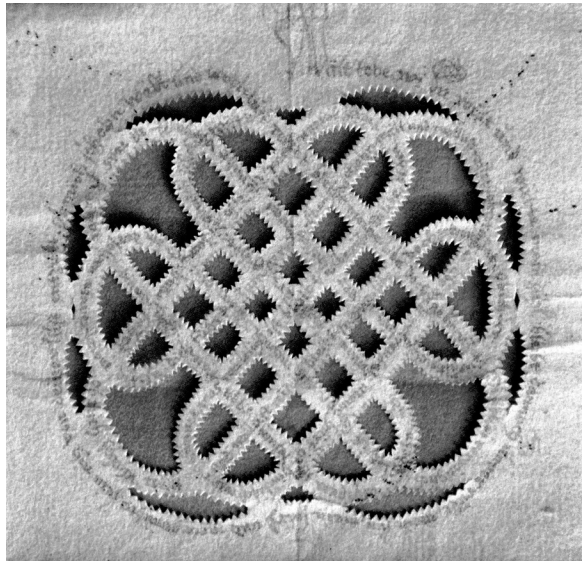
*An intricately cut bush, with the letters *A* and *M*, top and bottom, and a hexagram in the center*

Appreciating their hospitality, she sent “un petit essay de ma Muse, et de mon ciseau” (a small token of my Muse and of my scissors, 1648).

A third cut, tucked away in her private album, is a magic—or endless—knot, cut from twice-folded paper. In it is a poem written in German, with four verses, each with a refrain. The intent of it can be explained by Anna Maria’s unmarried state. When she was sixteen, her father had asked her on his deathbed not to marry. She promised him, kept her maiden status, and assumed the motto, “My love is crucified,” borrowed from church father Ignatius of Antioch. The poem seems to embrace this view of life, as if Anna Maria were a religious sister. But this poem was actually published in 1649 by German linguist Filip von Zesen, under his own name; he had spent several years in Holland and had come to admire Anna Maria. She was at that time at the height of her activities as a savant and did not tell anybody about this poetic gift. Filip may have cut the paper labyrinth as well; such love knots were at the time common in northern Germany and Denmark but not in the Netherlands. Moreover, we discovered another paper-cut love knot with a worldly poem, written and signed by Von Zesen, in Amsterdam, in 1647. This paper cut, kept in her estate, was, therefore, also made for her, not by her.

Long after Von Zesen’s death, the four-verse poem, with its refrain, “Then, though worldly desire may drive me, my crucified Love prevails,” was recognized as a hymn and incorporated into many hymnbooks

An endless love knot



in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Germany. Organists wrote melodies for it, and recently, it was discovered that even J. S. Bach had composed a beautiful choral arrangement for this hymn.

Organists, interested in a transcription of Bach's choral arrangement (no BWV) may request a copy from me at jpverhave@hotmail.com.

Publications and Presentations

Henk Aay

“Early Amsterdam: Site and Geographic Context.” Presentation (remote) to Prof. Herm De Vries’s January interim class, Dutch Language and Culture, Calvin University. January 11, 2021.

“New Towns on Drained Land in the Netherlands: A History.” Presentation to the GEO Department, Calvin University. October 22, 2021.

George Harinck

“De kappa van Princeton.” In *VU-voorwerpen en hun verhalen. 140 jaar erfgoed van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*. Ed. Ab Flipse and Liselotte Neervoort. Amsterdam: CLUE+, 2021.

“I have the quiet prayer that God will use us in America.’ The early export of neo-Calvinism from the Netherlands to the United States.” In *Transatlantic Religion: Europe, America, and the Making of Modern Christianity*. Ed. Annette G. Aubert and Zachary Purvis. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2021.

“Kuyper voorlezen bij Sandy Hook.” In *Abraham Kuyper herdacht: Oud Eik en Duinen, 12 November 2020*. Ed. Bert Lever. Bennekom: Hepar, 2021.

Nicolaus Martin Steffens, 1939-1912. Leben unter einem abnehmenden Mond. Zürich: Lit Verlag, 2020. In English: “We live presently under a waning moon.” *Nicolaus Martin Steffens as Leader of the Reformed Church in America in the West in Years of Transition (1878-1895)*. Van Raalte Press, 2013.

Jacob E. Nyenhuis

An Oral History. Stanford Historical Society Oral History Program, 2021.

“Michael Ayrton’s World of Myth.” In *Michael Ayrton Centenary: Ideas, Images, Reflections*. Ed. Justine Hopkins, with Freja Gregory and Alex Gregory. Ayrton Estate, 2021.

VRI Visiting Research Fellows

Lecture Series

Dutch American Identity Politics: The Use of History by Dutch Immigrants
(2003)

Hans Krabbendam, Roosevelt Study Center, the Netherlands

The Rain of God: Reformed Church in America Growth and Decline in Historical Perspective (2004)

Lynn M. Japinga, Hope College

Dutch Entrepreneurship: Spirit or Ideology? (2004)

Hans Niemantsverdriet, Amsterdam

Reassessing 1857: Overlooked Considerations Concerning the Birth of the Christian Reformed Church (2006)

James A. De Jong, Calvin Theological Seminary

Disease and Death among the Early Settlers in Holland, Michigan (2006)

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

Growing Up Dutch American: Cultural Identity and the Formative Years of Older Dutch Americans (2007)

Peter Ester, Tilburg University, the Netherlands

The Dutch Equation in the RCA Freemasonry Controversy, 1865-1885 (2008)

Harry Boonstra, Calvin College and Seminary

“We live presently under a waning moon”: Nicholas Martin Steffens as Leader of the Reformed Church in America in the West in Years of Transition (1878-1895) (2008)

George Harinck, VU University Amsterdam

Preachers, Pews, and Pupils: Commemorating the Past in Twentieth-Century Dutch America (2008)

David Zwart, Dordt College

The RCA Mission to Chiapas, 1925-2000 (2009)

Elizabeth Harvey, University of California, Berkeley

“Pope of the Classis”? The Leadership of Albertus C. Van Raalte in Dutch and American Classes (2009)

Leon van den Broeke, VU University Amsterdam

Dutch Americans and the Rise of Heritage Studies (2010)
Michael Douma, Florida State University

Hope: The Legacy of Van Raalte (2011)
Rein Nauta, Tilburg University, the Netherlands

Documentary Films of the Netherlands Shown in the United States, 1942-1973: Viewership, Representativeness, and Visual Rhetoric (2013)
Henk Aay, Calvin College

Hendrik P. Scholte: His Legacy in the Netherlands and in America (2015)
Eugene Heideman, RCA staff member, retired

“We made the Wilderness to Blossom”: Nineteenth Century Dutch Immigrants and the Natural World (2015)
Henk Aay, Calvin College, and Jan Boersema, Leiden University, the Netherlands

Seeds of Hope, Seeds of Hate: A Love Story (Begins) (2016)
Donald A. Luidens, Hope College

A Japanese and a Dutchman in Science: Stories of a Dramatic Disaster (2017)
Jan Peter Verhave, Radboud University, Nijmegen, NL

Plugging in the Electric Church: Robert Schuller, the Crystal Cathedral, and Entrepreneurial Evangelicalism (2018)
Mark T. Mulder, Calvin College

Eleanor Calverley, First Doctor to Kuwait: Celebrating 100 Years of Kuwait-American Friendship (2018)
Paul Heusinkveld, Honorary Research Fellow

Paterson, New Jersey: Dutch Immigration’s Largest Afterthought (1846-1950) (2019)
Robert Schoone-Jongen, Calvin University

The Pull at Hope College: Then and Now, 1898-2018 (2019)
Bruce Geelhoed, Ball State University

Patriots and Internationalists: Dutch American Religion and Global Consciousness in the Late 19th Century (2019)
Andrew Klumpp, Southern Methodist University

Van Raalte Institute Staff

2021

Henk Aay *Senior Research Fellow (2013)*

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DD (honorary) Central College

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 PhD Leiden University

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Editor, Missionary Memoirs Series (2021)
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 MDiv Princeton Theological Seminary
 MA, Rutgers University
 PhD Rutgers University

Jacob E. Nyenhuis *Editor-in-Chief, Van Raalte Press (2007)*
Director Emeritus (Director, 2002-15;
Interim Director, 2017-19)
Senior Research Fellow (2001-02)
Provost Emeritus and
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PhD University of Iowa

Jan Peter Verhave *Honorary Research Fellow (2009)*

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MA VU University Amsterdam
PhD University of Nijmegen

Dennis N. Voskuil *Senior Research Fellow (2014)*

Director (2015-17)
Interim President of Hope College (2017-19)
BS (Hons.) University of Wisconsin
BD Western Theological Seminary
PhD Harvard University

Applications Invited

Visiting Research Fellows Programs for Academic Year 2022–2023

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 will be awarded, each for not more than ten weeks in duration and with a stipend of up to \$3,000.

The Netherland-America Foundation Visiting Research Fellowship, which helped to initiate the VRF Program at Hope College, 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 United States in order to enhance mutual understanding and respect.

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 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 2023. Further information about expectations, arrangements, and the application process may be obtained from our website at www.hope.edu/vri.

Mission Statement

A. C. Van Raalte Institute at Hope College

The 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 November 27, 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 to immigrants throughout the United States. The bold Christian vision that he had for the church, for education, and for the community continues to have an impact on the “colony” that he founded on February 9, 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 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.

