

A.C. VAN RAALTE INSTITUTE

Annual Report

January-December 2023

—
Hope College
Holland, Michigan



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A. C. Van Raalte Institute, Hope College
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Donald A. Luidens
Director
Editor-in-Chief and Publisher

JoHannah Smith
Project Editor
Office Manager

Jacob E. Nyenhuis, PhD
Editor-in-Chief and Publisher Emeritus



Annual Report

2023

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In recognition of and gratitude for the contributions of

Jacob E. and Leona M. Nyenhuis

*to Hope College and the Van Raalte Institute,
we, their colleagues, dedicate this report to them.*

A Message from the Director

Dear Friends of the Van Raalte Institute:

This year marks the end of three decades of life for the Van Raalte Institute, years of remarkable productivity and growth. Starting with a staff of three—Bob Swierenga, Elton Bruins, and Karen Schakel—our ranks have swelled to nine senior research fellows (Earl Wm. Kennedy emeritus), a project editor/office manager, and seven honorary research fellows. In addition, we have now celebrated with more than two dozen visiting research fellows since the Visiting Research Fellows Lecture Series was initiated in 2003. They spent time in our midst and were remarkably productive in the process. The topics of their research are enumerated at the end of this annual report.

But 2023 will perhaps be best remembered for a variety of changes we experienced, some of our own initiative, some not so much.

The biggest transition has involved the removal of the collections of the Joint Archives of Holland from our shared building. After two decades of a symbiotic relationship, the archives, now renamed “Hope College Archives and Special Collections,” moved the collections of Hope College and Western Theological Seminary to the basement of the Van Wylene Library where they are now housed with the college’s other special collections. Sarah Lundy, the new Mary Riepma Ross Director of Archives and Special Collections, and her colleague Nicole Buday provide assistance to scholars and students in need of archival material.

The departure of the archives from our research center has, however, resulted in some fortuitous changes. Most importantly, in recognition of all that Jack and Lee Nyenhuis have contributed to the Van Raalte Institute and Hope College, the college has renamed our building the “Henri and Eleonore Theil and Jacob E. and Leona M. Nyenhuis Research Center.” As long-time director of the Van Raalte Institute and founding editor-in-chief of the Van Raalte Press, Jack has

left an indelible imprint on the VRI, and during his tenure as a professor and provost, Jack steered the course of the college to become a national leader in higher education.

Other changes have also taken place in the “Theil-Nyenhuis” building. The Elton J. Bruins Library has been moved from the relatively small, library and coffee room into the central reading room, formerly occupied by the archives. The former, and much larger, archives office is now the conference room, and the former Bruins library is the office of project editor JoHannah Smith.

One consequence of the exodus of the archives was the removal of a full set of *Church Herald* volumes. But thanks to Jeff Japinga, former editor of the *Church Herald*, and Elizabeth Pallitto, Reformed Church Archivist, we have been able to assemble our own collection of bound volumes, starting with 1969. We are hoping to complete the set all the way back to 1944.

In the midst of these changes, our senior research fellows have continued to be notably productive. Four books were published by the Van Raalte Press in 2023:

1. Robert P. Swierenga, *A. C. Van Raalte: Pastor by Vocation, Entrepreneur by Necessity*.
2. Eugene P. Heideman, *The Canons of Dort: God's Freedom, Justice, and Persistence*, ed. Donald J. Bruggink.
3. Christine Iverson Bennett and Arthur King Bennett, *The Stories of Arthur King and Christine Iverson Bennett: Medical Missionaries in Mesopotamia, 1904-1916*. Missionary Memoirs Series, no. 5.
4. Shawn Brix with Paul Heusinkveld, *Tena Huizenga: Missionary to Nigeria, 1937-1954*. Missionary Memoirs Series, no. 6.

You can read more about the ongoing projects of each fellow in their reports that follow. Suffice it to say, “retired” is a term used advisedly in this group; it seems to be a temporary state of affairs.

Having said that, after twenty-two years at the VRI, most of which as director and editor-in-chief of the Van Raalte Press, Jack Nyenhuis has cut back on his direct involvement in the life of the VRI, and we have reluctantly allowed him to do so. His title now includes “Emeritus.” His mantel has fallen on my shoulders at this point, and it is surely a heavy responsibility.

As a separately endowed institute, the VRI is dependent upon the generosity of our many supporters for our success. For each of you, we are most grateful. Our research and publications (now totaling dozens of books and hundreds of articles) tend to appeal primarily to those interested in the history of immigrants to Western Michigan and to folks related to Hope College, Calvin University, and the Reformed and Christian Reformed Churches. As such, we welcome all contributions to help defray our publication costs.

One donor in particular deserves a word of recognition. For several years, Joseph Rosenthal, MD, PhD, of Orinda, California, has presented us annually with gorgeous maps and etchings of Dutch towns and countrysides. These historic items, dating from as far back as the early seventeenth century, were collected by Dr. Rosenthal over many years, and we have become the beneficiary of his gracious thoughtfulness. Many are in color, and several show local city skylines; others are detailed maps of the Netherlands as it was variously named and governed. These artifacts, part of the Van Raalte Institute's permanent collection, are being bound together in archival sleeves for future scholars. We are most grateful for Dr. Rosenthal's kindness.

A map of the Netherlands (north is to the right) executed in 1661 by the famous Dutch cartographer Johannes Janssonius (Janssonius).



Such landmarks as the Zuyder Zee and the coastal islands that made up much of Zeeland appear in the middle of the map. The English Channel (Britannicus Oceanus) and the North Sea (Oceanus Germanicus) are arrayed at the top. This map is one of a series of historic (16th–18th century) maps, etchings, and landscapes held at the Van Raalte Institute and available

for scholars to review. With this annual report, I welcome you into the Van Raalte Institute family.

Come and visit us sometime at the Theil-Nyenhuis Research Center. Our coffee/seminar hour every morning at eleven o'clock is full of gusto, historic arcana, and good humor. We would love to add your knowledge and insights to this animated brew.



Dutch blogger Dominique Voss visited the VRI to gather information for a future blog post.



Fred and Monique Tazelaars (middle) came and Ebels (left) from the Netherlands in September to spend some time in the Holland/Zeeland area with old friends Mark and Laurie Ebels.

With best wishes,

Donald Luidens
Director, Van Raalte Institute
Editor-in-Chief, Van Raalte Press

Van Raalte Institute Reception Honoring Jacob E. and Leona M. Nyenhuis, September 14, 2023

(all photos courtesy Greg Olgers)

A. C. Van Raalte Institute
Hope College

Congratulations and Gratitude

A Reception to Honor Dr. Jacob E. Nyenhuis

Thursday, September 14, 2023
10:00 a.m.—Noon
Remarks at 10:15 a.m.

The Van Raalte Institute is hosting a reception to honor Jacob E. Nyenhuis, founder and editor-in-chief of the Van Raalte Press (2007-23) and director emeritus of the Van Raalte Institute (2002-19).

Please join us to congratulate Jack and celebrate his enormous contributions to the mission of the Van Raalte Institute and Hope College.



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Bill and Nella Kennedy (on right) greet (l-r) Barbara and Jim Boelkins and Judy Parr.



Don Luidens welcomes guests and Nyenhuis family members and introduces speakers.



JoHannah Smith reads the official tribute to Jack on behalf of the VRI and Hope College.



Luidens presents the framed tribute to Jack while George and Sibilla Boerigter (behind) show their appreciation.

Tribute

TO

Dr. Jacob E. Nyenhuis

We, the members of the Van Raalte Institute and the leadership of Hope College, join together with his family and friends to celebrate the inimitable service rendered by Dr. Jacob E. Nyenhuis as Director of the Van Raalte Institute (2002-2019) and Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the Van Raalte Press (2007-2023).

In appreciation for his many years of wise leadership, firm guardianship, faithful stewardship, commitment to scholarly excellence, and kindness, we celebrate renaming the home of the Van Raalte Institute to the

**Henri and Eleonore Theil and
Jacob E. and Leona M. Nyenhuis Research Center**



Hope president Matthew Scogin: “Jack Nyenhuis’s indelible contributions to research and academic excellence have left an enduring mark on our community. The renaming of the Theil-Nyenhuis Research Center stands as a fitting tribute, symbolizing a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of scholars to come.”



Hope provost Gerald Griffin: “Jack set a solid platform for academic excellence and research on which we stand today. I am grateful for the path he paved that has allowed us to flourish in the realm of undergraduate research.”



Former Hope president James Bultman: “Having Jack and Lee’s names on the research center, along with the Theils, whom Jack nurtured as major donors, is a fitting tribute to them for their extraordinary engagement with Hope during Jack’s distinguished career at the college.”



Former Hope provost James Boelkins: “Jack has been a special gift to Hope College. His fingerprints are seen in almost every area of the college but especially the academic program. His incredible knowledge of Hope was a huge support to me as provost. When I needed help understanding the history behind a personal or academic issue, Jack could always fill in the blanks.”



Jack and Lee, surrounded by their daughters (l-r) Kathy Kurtze, Lorna Cook, Sarah Nyenhuis, and Karen Louwema.



Left to right: Donald A. Luidens, James N. Boelkins, Jacob E. Nyenhuis, Matthew A. Scogin, James E. Bultman, and Gerald Griffin.

Research Center Renamed to Honor Jacob and Leona Nyenhuis

September 14, 2023, Press Release, by Greg Olgers

The Van Raalte Institute and Hope College have honored Dr. Jacob E. and Leona M. Nyenhuis for their many decades of scholarship and service with the addition of their names to the Theil Research Center, home of the Van Raalte Institute since 2004.

Jacob Nyenhuis is a past director of the college's A. C. Van Raalte Institute, which he had previously been instrumental in creating while serving as the college's provost. Leona Nyenhuis graduated with an art history major in 1993 after attending Hope as a nontraditional student while her husband served at the college. The announcement of the name change—a surprise to the couple—was made during a ceremony at the center on Thursday, September 14.

“For his wise leadership, firm guardianship, faithful stewardship, commitment to scholarly excellence, and kind friendship and encouragement, we the members of the Van Raalte Institute are proud to claim Jack as one of our own and celebrate his life among us for these past 22 years,” said Donald A. Luidens, the institute's current director as well as a professor emeritus of sociology.

“Leona (Lee) Nyenhuis has been a long-time partner in Jack's many responsibilities as a faculty member and administrator at Hope College, Wayne State University, the University of California-Santa Barbara, and Calvin University,” Luidens said. “Together with Jack, she is a cofounder of the Leona M. and Jacob E. Nyenhuis Sculpture Garden, a wonderful reflection of her artistic sensibilities. In recent years, she has been a faithful and valued member of the Van Raalte Institute family.”

The new formal name of the building is the “Henri and Eleonore Theil and Jacob E. and Leona M. Nyenhuis Research Center,” or the “Theil-Nyenhuis Research Center.” The building was named for Eleonore Goldschmidt Theil and her late husband, the eminent economist Dr. Henri Theil, in 2004, in honor of an estate gift to the college.

The Van Raalte Institute specializes in scholarly research and writing on immigration and the contributions of the Dutch and their descendants in

the United States. The institute is also dedicated to the study of the history of all the people who have comprised the community of Holland throughout its history.

Jacob Nyenhuis, along with Hope professor Dr. Elton J. Bruins, worked closely with Peter H. Huizenga to secure a sizable endowment to establish the institute in 1994, with Bruins appointed founding director. Nyenhuis joined the institute as a senior research fellow in September 2001 after retiring from the Hope faculty; he had served 26 years at the college, the last 17 as provost and professor of classics.

He succeeded Bruins in 2002 and served as director until 2019. During his tenure, among many other achievements, he founded the Visiting Research Fellows Lecture Series; organized an international, bilateral conference celebrating the birth of Van Raalte; and increased the number of senior fellows to eight, with numerous visiting and honorary research fellows from around the world contributing to the research and publication of the institute.

To facilitate the publication of the scholarship of the Van Raalte Institute, Jacob Nyenhuis founded the Van Raalte Press in 2007, serving as editor-in-chief until the role was transferred to Luidens this month.

The press published 30 titles with 37 volumes during Nyenhuis' tenure, including four jointly with Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. Three of the titles have been honored with a State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan: "Holland, Michigan: From Dutch Colony to Dynamic City" (Robert P. Swierenga, 3 volumes, 2014); "Hope College at 150: Anchored in Faith, Educating for Leadership and Service in a Global Society" (Nyenhuis and others, two volumes, 2019); and "A Constant State of Emergency: Paul de Kruif, Microbe Hunter and Health Activist" (Jan Peter Verhave, 2020).

Purchased by Hope from Fifth Third Bank in 2002 and located at 9 E. 10th St. between College and Columbia avenues, the Theil-Nyenhuis Research Center had previously served as temporary quarters for the college's Department of Psychology during construction of the A. Paul Schaap Science Center. The Van Raalte Institute was housed in the college's Anderson-Werkman Financial Center at 100 E. Eighth St. prior to moving to the building.

More information about the Van Raalte Institute is available online at hope.edu/vri



The newly renamed Theil-Nyenhuis Research Center, at 9 East 10th Street, Holland, Michigan, home of the A. C. Van Raalte Institute and the Van Raalte Press.

Reports

Senior Research Fellows



Jacob E. Nyenhuis

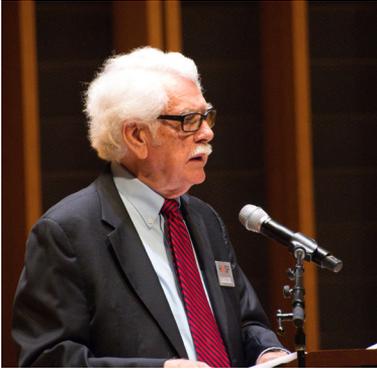
On June 30, 2001, I retired from my position as professor of classics and provost of Hope College. That retirement lasted a mere two months, and I then joined the Van Raalte Institute as a senior research fellow. A year later, I took on the role of director at the request of the founding director Elton J. Bruins; I served two separate terms, totaling fifteen years (2002-15 and 2017-19), with a second (partial) retirement on October 1, 2019. Then, on September 1, 2023, I retired again, after sixteen years as founding editor-in-chief of the Van Raalte Press. At that time, I had spent one-fourth of my eighty-eight years at the institute. I treasure these years spent as a senior research fellow, author, and editor, working alongside my wonderful colleagues.

I am deeply grateful that Don Luidens, who now serves in the dual roles that I previously fulfilled, has insisted that I retain my office and come in regularly for our daily coffee time. Thanks to him, I received one of the biggest surprises of my life on September 14, when Leona and I were honored by having the name of the Theil Research Center changed to the “Henri and Eleonore Theil and Jacob E. and Leona M. Nyenhuis Research Center.” We are also very grateful to Larry Kieft ’65, who commissioned a portrait of us to hang beside the portrait of the Henri and Eleonore Theil, and to artist Larry Blovits for his beautiful execution of the commission.

The final manuscript that I edited for the Van Raalte Press was “Present but Not Counted: Dutch-Born Immigrant Women Working as Midwives in Dutch Colonies in the United States,” by Janet Sjaarda Sheeres. Editing this remarkable account of Dutch-born midwives who had emigrated to the United States in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries was a special pleasure because it revealed to me that my paternal great-grandmother Maria Bosscher Timmer was a midwife in my home town of Pease, Minnesota, and in nearby Bogus Brook Township, where I was born. She died in 1936, just before her eightieth birthday, when I was only a year old.

During the past year, I also reviewed manuscripts and participated in decisions on cover design. In this role, I work closely with JoHannah Smith, our outstanding project editor, who has edited every book published by the Van Raalte Press since she joined us on April 5, 2010. It has been a real joy to work with her in the growth of the Van Raalte Press, for she is a very talented editor and she shares my high standards for every publication from the Van Raalte Institute. I oversaw the publication of Robert P. Swierenga, *A. C. Van Raalte: Pastor by Vocation, Entrepreneur by Necessity* (Van Raalte Press, 2023), and Eugene P. Heideman, *The Canons of Dort: God’s Freedom, Justice, and Persistence*, ed. Donald J. Bruggink (Van Raalte Press, 2023).

I initially continued my involvement with Nella Kennedy on the history of Dimnent Memorial Chapel since I had written a rather extensive, albeit condensed, history of this chapel as part of my 305-page chapter, “The Architecture of Hope,” in my two-volume *Hope College at 150: Anchored in Faith, Educating for Leadership and Service in a Global Society* (Van Raalte Press, 2019). But as the year wore on, I realized that it would be best to withdraw from that endeavor, so Nella now is the sole author of the history of Dimnent Memorial Chapel, and Judy Parr is the author of a biography of Edward D. Dimnent. Also, as the last living member of the initial executive committee of the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP), I delivered a short history of the organization’s founding and first two years on the occasion of the organization’s thirty-fifth anniversary, which was celebrated during HASP’s annual meeting on June 13, 2023.



Nyenhuis addresses members of HASP on the occasion of its thirty-fifth anniversary.

Excerpt

“Early History of the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP),” Presented by Jacob E. Nyenhuis at the celebration of its 35th Anniversary on June 13, 2023, at the Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts, Hope College.

As the sole survivor of the original executive committee of HASP, I consider it a special privilege to offer a few remarks on our thirty-fifth anniversary.

I brought a commitment to lifelong learning to discussions about HASP in 1988. . . . Therefore, my response to the idea of creating the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals was immediately enthusiastic. With the able assistance of the Hope College Archives, I have been able to review all my files on the first two years of HASP.

Barely a month after the Inauguration of Dr. John H. Jacobson as Hope College’s tenth president, Dr. John W. Hollenbach, professor emeritus of English, submitted a memorandum to him. Dated November 5, 1987, its topic was “Thoughts on Developing a ‘Hope College Academy of Senior Professionals.’” His opening paragraph stated: “Stimulated by the accounts of ASPEC—the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College—and by occasional conversations with Hope colleagues about using the talents of retired Hope staff, I advance these ideas as a basis for exploring the possibilities of a somewhat similar program here at Hope.”

A later postscript, dated February 24, 1988, stated that this memo was discussed by the two of them on November 25, 1987. They agreed to meet with the director of the ASPEC program in February 1988. . . . Dr. Jacobson had been vice president and dean of faculty from 1968 to 1972 at Florida

Presbyterian College, which later was renamed Eckerd College. . . .

On March 25, 1988 . . . Dr. Hollenbach assembled a group of twenty-one retired professionals, along with President Jacobson and me. . . . He . . . noted that Harvard, Duke, and others had similar programs. . . . Many valuable ideas were offered by members of the group. At the end of the meeting, he said that he, Dr. Jacobson, and I would select a small planning group to develop a prospectus.

The three of us met on April 13, 1988, with four retirees: professor emeritus of psychology, Lars I. Granberg; professor emeritus of history, Paul G. Fried; Dr. Dalton McFarland, professor emeritus of management, University of Alabama at Birmingham; and Rev. Dr. Marion “Mert” de Velder. During the meeting, it was agreed that a subcommittee should draft a document for review, and that there should be two foci for this document: (1) meetings should be designed for mutual enrichment; and (2) members should serve as a resource bank for faculty and students. It was also agreed that the organization should be largely self-supporting, with an initial membership fee of only \$25.

On April 25, Dr. Vern Boersma joined the planning committee. A prospectus prepared by Dr. Hollenbach was reviewed, and a revised version was presented on May 2. From then on, it was full speed ahead!

By May 31, 1988, HASP held its charter meeting, with 46 members signing the charter. The proposed pattern of governance was unanimously approved. Less than a year later, the membership had already reached 80. At the time of John Hollenbach’s death in 1998, the membership had totaled 380.

It has been wonderful to see the tremendous growth of our organization, from 46 founding members to 771 continuing members.

My ongoing personal projects include completion of a Nyenhuis family history and writing a memoir, but much of my time in 2024 will be devoted to preparing for our move in July or August to Resthaven’s new senior living facility, the Farmstead. It is of special interest to me that this campus is being built on Twenty-Fourth Street, adjacent to the 160-acre Van Raalte Farm, which was purchased by Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte in July and November 1847. It remained in the family until 1983 when the city of Holland acquired it from a descendant of Ben Van Raalte. Lee and I began our life in Holland in 1975, similarly adjacent to property originally owned by Van Raalte, when we purchased a home on Twelfth Street facing Centennial Park, which Van Raalte had donated to the city of Holland in 1876.

My public service in 2023 included membership on the Dutch American Historical Commission until September and continuing membership on the Dutch American Heritage Day Committee. I have likewise continued as an emeritus member of the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. I also maintain connections between and among Hope College retirees through regular updates on fellow retirees. In addition, I served on a steering committee at my local church in the preparation of an overture to the synod of the Christian Reformed Church.



Donald A. Luidens

In my director's report, I note that 2023 was a year of many transitions. It was my opportunity and (mostly) pleasure to see them unfold throughout the year. Although I was very reluctant to see the archives move to the Van Wylen Library, I was grateful for the gracious way in which director Sarah Lundy undertook that separation. Together, we were able to work out a viable process for continuing our work together.

Among the highlights of the transitions was the celebration of the renaming of the Theil-Nyenhuis building, an event that brought out Hope luminaries. Current president Matt Scogin, former president Jim Bultman, current provost Gerald Griffins, and former provost Jim Boelkins were all able to join in the unveiling. Jack and Lee Nyenhuis were duly recognized for their many contributions to the college and to the Van Raalte Institute.

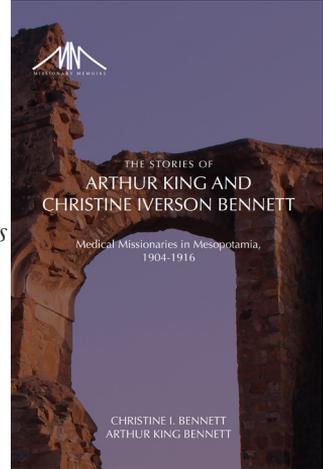
I was also pleased that the reconfiguration of our office space has been to the benefit of all. The Elton J. Bruins Library houses our book and manuscript collections—much of which was gathered by Bruins in his years as director and senior research fellow—and is now kept in the main reading room, making its contents much more accessible.

In my role as series editor of the Missionary Memoirs Series (MMS), I am delighted to have overseen the publication of nos. 5 and 6 in that series.

Christine Iverson Bennett, granddaughter of Arthur King and Christine Iverson Bennett, has brought together a biography of her grandmother with the autobiography of her grandfather and crafted them into a fascinating and heart-rending story of courageous pioneer missionaries. *The Stories of Arthur King and Christine Iverson Bennett: Medical Missionaries in Mesopotamia, 1904-1916*, no. 5 in the MMS, is a moving testimony to the faith and fortitude of two unlikely travelers to an ancient land. Christine, a Danish immigrant to the United States, had barely adapted to her adopted country when she resolved to engage in mission work. This intrepid young woman went on to undertake medical training at the University of Michigan, and then she ventured to the Persian Gulf.

I have likened Arthur King Bennett to a latter-day Sinbad the Sailor, with a Bible in one hand and his medical bag in the other. His memoirs read like the tales of a daredevil adventurer setting out bravely—albeit naively—into unknown regions. He, too, was trained at the University of Michigan Medical School, with further study at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in England. Learning that he would have to pass a medical exam for the Ottoman Empire posting he sought, Bennett decided to take the exam in French—a language totally unknown to him. After six months of intensive study in Paris, he garnered enough French to pass the exam—only one of his many remarkable accomplishments. I will leave you hanging as to the outcome of this tale of tragedy and triumph.

Paul Heusinkveld has annotated and enhanced with maps and timelines the biography of Tena Huizenga written by Shawn Brix (Calvin Theological Seminary, 1994). The Van Raalte Press has acquired the copyrights and reissued it as no. 6 in the MMS. *Tena Huizenga: Missionary to Nigeria, 1937-54* recounts the exploits of the daughter of a Chicago-area Dutch immigrant family during the fateful years when the great British Empire was collapsing around the globe. Tena had a front-row seat, serving as a missionary in rural Nigeria, where she witnessed the changes



as they tumbled all around her. Her letters home provide a vivid account of her life in those turbulent times.

The official presentation of George Kraft's *A Place to Call Home* (2022), MMS no. 4, was held on February 20 with a light reception in the Rotunda of the Martha Miller Center. A crowd of friends and colleagues listened to George's story of his life as a missionary kid who found his forever home at Hope College.



L-r, Don Luidens, George Kraft, and Jack Nyenhuis.

Much of my editorial time has been spent on three projects that have great promise. Two are in the MMS, and both are related to mission work in Japan. Richard Sytsma, former CRC missionary to Japan and recent dean at Calvin Theological Seminary, is writing about the history of the cooperative mission venture that brought together the CRC and the Reformed Church of Japan. Rev. Gordon Laman, long-time RCA missionary in Japan, has written eloquently about his own missionary journey.

In a departure from the MMS, I have enjoyed working with former Hope College provost Jim Boelkins on a memoir of his father's service in Europe as a front-line surgeon during the months after D-Day. Serving along with Patton's Third Army, Dr. Richard Boelkins was witness to a year of heroism and carnage as the Allies marched across France into Belgium, Luxemburg, and then Germany.

Every two years, the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies (AADAS) hosts a scholarly conference. For a dozen years, the VRP has been the publisher of the AADAS conference papers. I am the principal editor for the proceedings of the 2023 conference held at Trinity College in Palos Heights, Illinois. I have found it enjoyable and challenging to work with more than a dozen authors who have

contributed a wide array of articles to that volume. It is tentatively entitled “*E Pluribus Unum*,” a reference to the melding of multiple regional Dutch cultures into a uniquely American “Dutch” identity.

The past year has had more in it for me and my family than the pleasure of editing books and administering an institute. The highlight of our travels was a transatlantic crossing with friends from high school days. We visited the beaches of Normandy—always a moving experience—and then spent time in Berlin and Dresden. The latter has been rebuilt to its imperial splendor in the wake of its destruction in raids from February 13 to 15, 1945. It was a renewing experience to combine historical reflections with the relaxation of a ship’s passage.



The beaches of Normandy.



Alstadt Centre is a bustling space of shops and street vendors.



Church of Our Lady Lutheran Church, Dresden.

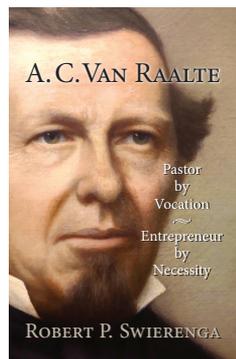


Robert P. Swierenga

Highlights of this past year are the publication of two books and presenting the keynote address at the AADAS conference at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, a Chicago suburb. The first book, a major work, is the definitive biography of Rev. A. C. Van Raalte, Holland’s founder and namesake of the A. C. Van Raalte Institute, my home institution for the past twenty-seven years. *A. C. Van Raalte: Pastor by Vocation, Entrepreneur by Necessity* (Van Raalte Press) is dedicated to our founding director, Rev. Dr. Elton J. Bruins, who collected most of the thousands of Van Raalte manuscripts, newspaper clippings, and church records from both sides of the Atlantic that formed the building blocks of this book.



*Congratulations from director
Don Luidens.*



This project was truly a joint venture with my colleagues. Nella Kennedy researched the life of young Albertus, a preacher's son, his education at Leiden University and career in the Seceded Church. Earl Wm. Kennedy, assisted by finding Van Raalte references in Netherlands periodicals now available via delpher.nl. Paul Heusinkveld created photo montages of clerical leaders in the Netherlands and Michigan, and Henk Aay enhanced many low resolution photos to make them suitable for publication. Jack Nyenhuis and Jan Boersema, a Dutch visiting research fellow, read the manuscript and meticulously rooted out Dutch misspellings and errors of fact. JoHannah Smith copy edited the book and prepared the entire project for publication. With all this help, this should have been my most error-free book, but Dennis Voskuil found a misstated fact within minutes of his first look. No one is perfect, as they say, and I remain humble. The book is available at hope.edu/vri and on Amazon. The book was recognized by my colleagues at a dinner at the Haworth Conference Center on Hope's campus on October 12, 2023.



With Elaine Bruins, celebrating a book that would have made her late husband Elton proud.

Will Katerberg, editor of *Origins*, graciously allowed me to write the lead article on the highlights of Van Raalte's career: "A. C. Van Raalte: Dominee 'on the go'" (*Origins* 41 [no. 1], 2023). Katerberg included his review of the book and also an essay of his own on Van Raalte's fatherly letters to his son Ben.

The second book was a joint effort with Michael J. Douma, associate professor and director of the Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics. Together, we published an edited version of a delightful document discovered in the archives of the Holland

Museum—the musings of Ray Nies, a hardware merchant on Holland’s Eighth Street in the first half of the twentieth century. Nies had a knack for collecting interesting stories he had heard at the store and local watering holes. We published the writings as *Village Talk: A Country Merchant’s Memoir and Folk History*. The book is available on Amazon.

The AADAS program committee asked me to arrange a preconference bus tour of Dutch Chicago sites. Fortunately, we were able to use the Hope College bus that carried many conferees from West Michigan. Jack Lynn, the driver, displayed his mastery of the fifty-five-passenger bus on narrow neighborhood streets as we drove past former churches and Christian schools and stopped at significant ministries in Humboldt Park and Roseland. The next day, my keynote address, “Dutch Chicago Revisited: Upward Mobility and White Flight,” took a look back at my *Dutch Chicago* book, twenty years after publication.

I spoke for a variety of audiences, in addition to the AADAS keynote address. For the luncheon lecture series of the La Grave Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids on November 9, I spoke on “A. C. Van Raalte: Reluctant Seceder.” On November 11, the 175th anniversary of the Overisel, Michigan, settlement, I spoke at the Overisel Reformed Church, also marking its 175th anniversary, on the colonial leader, Rev. Seine Bolks, and the causes, ocean crossing, inland passage, and decision making that led to settlement in Michigan instead of Wisconsin.

I hosted and introduced Netherlands professor and honorary research fellow Jan Peter Verhave when he lectured at Zeeland’s Second Reformed Church on his biography of the city’s native son: *A Constant State of Emergency. Paul De Kruif: Microbe Hunter and Health Activist* (Van Raalte Press, 2020).

In September I participated in the recognition of the historic Ben Van Raalte farmhouse and barns, now part of Van Raalte Farm Park, and the unveiling of a Michigan Historic Marker of the Civil War battles of the “Holland boys,” Company I, 25th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. I also spoke in September on Dutch immigration to Holland for Hope professor Kathleen Verduin’s English course, “What, then, is the American?” In December I led a tour of historic Dutch sites in

Zeeland and Holland, including the CRC Heritage Center at Graafschap Christian Reformed Church, for students of Covenant Christian High School in Walker.

My current project is a comprehensive history of the Dutch community of Zeeland, Michigan. I continue to serve on the board of the Zeeland Historical Society and am a member of the Dutch American Historical Commission.



I quite often pedal the 8.4 miles round trip into the institute, even in very chilly weather. My odometer now has more than four thousand miles on it.



Paul Heusinkveld

I continue to focus my work on researching and documenting stories of Christian missionaries, particularly those from the RCA's Arabian Mission. My primary motives are to ensure these stories are preserved through publication and to inspire others to dedicate their lives to similar service as a means of reconciliation to peace and goodwill between the East and West, building a more peaceful world.

I dedicated the majority of my work to the biography of my father, Maurice Heusinkveld, MD, a member of the Arabian Mission. The book covers the history of the early Heusinkvelds, beginning in the Netherlands in 1710, and details the events and circumstances that would eventually inspire Maurice to become a missionary. A considerable portion of the book's content comes from my time as a missionary child and the stories my father would tell me, but a majority of it comes from professional correspondence, letters to and from my parents, historical documents from the RCA archives, books written about the Arabian Mission, and interviews with members of the Arabian Mission, all based on my research online and at the Hope College archives. The timeline of the book continues until 1961, when I left the mission field for boarding school in India. My father's story and that of my family subsequent to 1961 will be the subject of future books.

In the process of working on the biography of my father, I realized

it would be critical to research and understand the motives that drove my ancestors to immigrate to America. From a larger viewpoint, this involves understanding why there was such a large immigration movement from the Netherlands to America in the mid-nineteenth century. A fascinating consequence of this investigation was discovering an English translation of a seminal pamphlet written in 1846 by Anthony Brummelkamp and A. C. Van Raalte, *Landverhuizing, of waarom bevorderen wij de volksverhuizing en wel naar Noord Amerika en niet naar Java?*² (Emigration, or why do we advocate emigration to North America and not to Java), that encouraged immigration to North America. The original Dutch document, as well as the English translation, are held in Calvin University’s archives, and I spent a number of days there.

As a result of this research, I realized that that pamphlet had played a large role not only in my ancestors’ decision to immigrate but also in the decision of thousands of Netherlanders to immigrate to America and, therefore, could shed light on the broader topic of why the Dutch immigrated. Thus, I decided to publish a book about this immigration pamphlet that will include both a copy of the original Dutch pamphlet and the English translation. Also, I will add background information, footnotes, pictures, maps, a bibliography, and an index to make the document easier to read. It will be a valuable source document for future academic research.

This book, tentatively titled, “Why the Dutch Immigrated to North America,” is in final draft form and will soon be ready for preparation for publication.



At the request of the late Peter Huizenga’s wife Heidi, I took on the task of republishing a book about Peter’s aunt, Tena Huizenga, written by Shawn Brix (originally published in 1994, titled *In the Master’s Service: The Life of Tena Huizenga*). I scanned the book and used OCR (optical character reader) software to transform the PDF into editable text. Then I reformatted the book and added a timeline and index. The new title is *Tena Huizenga: Missionary to Nigeria, 1937-54* (Van Raalte Press, 2023). Peter’s brother, J. C. Huizenga, purchased six hundred copies of the book to distribute to the attendees of the annual Dutch American Heritage

Day dinner held at the Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville, Michigan, in November.

Republishing the Tena Huizenga book is an initial trial of my endeavor to republish rare documents associated with the RCA (particularly of the Arabian Mission) and CRC. These rare, hard-to-find books are available only in a few library and archive collections. The documents are virtually inaccessible to most people, especially to anyone living outside the United States. Also, many of these rare documents are too fragile for public access, so my intent is to make them available for study by academics as well as the general public, to make these important documents readily available to anyone interested in them for either research or general interest.



The initial phase of this project involves scanning and digitizing seven books that all support the VRI mission statement.¹ Subsequent to scanning the documents, OCR technology and software will be used to transform them into editable text. Making the text editable will enable each book to be reformatted, which will allow adding annotations, such as footnotes, photographs, and maps that will enhance the reading and educational experience. Also, an index will be added to the documents to facilitate future research.

I continue to rework 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 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 now is to retell her adventurous story as a means of reconciliation between East and West, between Kuwait and the United States, and between Moslems and Christians, as well as to serve as inspiration for young women looking for role models.

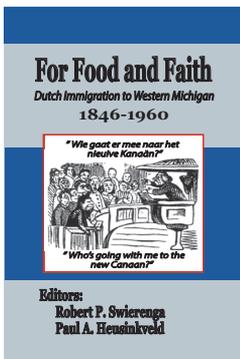
I continue to work on preparing Harvey Staal's translation of the Arabic Bible for publication and have composed a fairly complete, near final draft of the book with pictures and maps included. This rare Bible

¹The mission statement of the VRI is the last entry of this booklet.

(only one copy exists, kept 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 that is difficult to read. My goal is to reformat the text and add pictures, maps, and appendices to make it more readable and to have the additional content add historical and cultural context to this rare document. I have been working on this project for more than a decade.

I am working with Bob Swierenga to republish *For Food and Faith: Dutch Immigration to Western Michigan, 1846-1960*. The book was originally published in 2000, but now, very few copies are in circulation. Of those few copies, most are falling apart due to the poor binding. Thus, the book is largely out of circulation, and a new printing is needed. I scanned the book, OCR'd those scans, made many corrections, and reformatted the book. The layout of the new edition is very different from the original, with updated pictures and a revised bibliography. This project is still in progress. The revised version will serve as valuable source material for research into Dutch American history and culture.

I am also working on a missionary memoir of Trena Selles.



Trena and Albert Selles were CRC missionaries in China (the CRC's first mission field) from 1926 to 1949. Trena and Albert lived through a tumultuous time in Chinese history. Noteworthy aspects of the book are that it is a first-hand account, written by a woman, with fascinating personal historical details of the times that may be unique, making it a valuable source for future research. I am working with Kurt Selles, grandson of Trena and Albert, to locate pictures for the manuscript and from Trena's

mimeographed memoir. I will be adding footnotes, pictures, maps, and an index.

Finally, I provided advice and assistance to my VRI colleagues in a number of technical areas, such as scanning, OCR, document layout, and reformatting (of note, I received far more advice from them than I gave). In particular, I helped Bob Swierenga in the scanning of pictures and text documents to prepare them for publication.

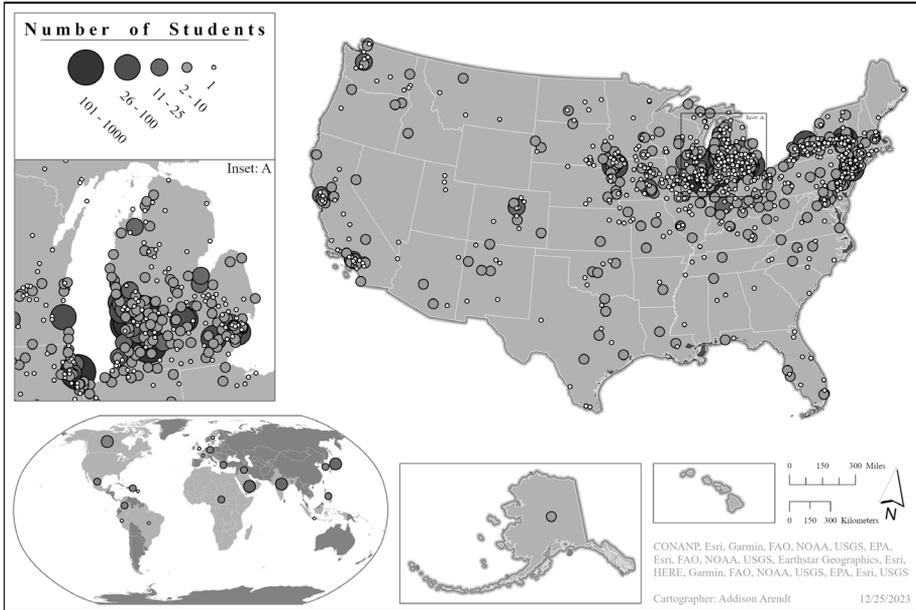


Henk Aay

Research and writing

With a crowded publication queue at the Van Raalte Press, it seemed to me, in 2023, that my manuscript, “American Eyes on the Netherlands,” which studies the visual images projected by the Netherlands for American consumption in post-World War II Dutch documentaries, would never see the light of day. But the project is moving forward and currently in the hands of our page designer Russ Gasero. I made finishing touches to the manuscript throughout the year—the front matter, revisions and corrections in the text, and part of the back matter. The index must wait until after layout.

For most of 2023, I was stuck in the start-up stage of research on Dutch-established institutions of higher education (12 of them) for the atlas, “Mapping Dutch North America.” The challenge has and continues to be acquiring the data from the individual colleges and universities. Unlike Reformed denominational data that is aggregated in yearbooks and immigration statistics compiled in census tables, I need permission and cooperation from each institution to acquire and use their data for the atlas. My approach has been to contact the president’s office of each college or university with an introduction to the larger project and my request for its institutional data, and they usually assign staff to locate the records and get them to me. All this has involved delays and is taking considerable time.



Hope College enrollment by students' home places, 1957-58.

Among Dutch American legacies, these institutions do not receive the recognition they deserve, nor is there an accessible overview of this family of Reformed institutions of higher education. I intend to devote a spread to each college and university with maps, graphs, photos, scans, and columns of written text. Data on enrollment (see the map of the 1957-58 Hope College enrollment), male/female split, religious affiliation, and alumni will be given visual form. All this will take much of 2024 to complete. Several Hope students have prepared databases from the records colleges have provided. I have applied for funding from the GEO department at Calvin University to hire a GIS student to help with the mapping.

The Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies (AADAS)

Together with Don Luidens and Michael Douma, I edited the papers that were presented at the June 2023 AADAS conference at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, and submitted for publication. Editing is always an intense amount of work in a short period of time, but it brings rewards. It improves one's own writing and deepens

one's knowledge of the subject matter of the paper beyond its public presentation. The papers will be published by the Van Raalte Press as part of its continuing series of the proceedings of the biennial AADAS conferences.

As president of AADAS from 2023 to 2025, together with the board, I have been planning and organizing the June 2025 AADAS conference, to be held at Hope College and hosted by the VRI, on the theme of post-WWII Dutch immigration to North America. All Dutch immigration-related history of this time is acceptable subject material for this conference. Because this period includes those born in the Netherlands, AADAS will extend these immigrants a special invitation and encourage them to share and present their memoirs.

Family anniversary trip to the Netherlands

In 2020 Christine and I had planned to celebrate our fiftieth wedding anniversary with a family trip with our daughters, in-laws, and grandchildren. Covid twice postponed those plans, but finally, in June 2023, we made it happen. We rented, as a base camp, three, side-by-side cottages for eleven days in early June in the National Park, Utrechtse Heuvelrug. We made day trips by train, van, and bicycle, including to Christine's home area in Friesland, Henk's boyhood places in Driebergen and Zeist, and the Wilhelmina Pier in Rotterdam, from which both families had left for Canada in the 1950s. Other destinations and trips gave everyone a heightened appreciation of their heritage and the Netherlands' cultural distinctiveness.



Henk and Christine, two daughters, seven grandchildren, and one son-in-law, in front of Henk's birth home on the Traai, the principal shopping street in Driebergen. It is the building on the other side of the street with the tree out front, an Albert Heijn grocery store during the 1940s and 50s. Henk's parents ran the store, and his family lived above and behind it.



Dennis Voskuil

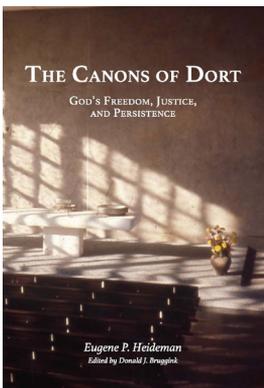
During the past year, I completed several chapters on the history of Western Theological Seminary. I estimate it will take at least two more years to finish this major project.

My research and analysis of the early years of WTS were captured in two lectures and one presentation in 2023. For the annual Founders Day at Western Theological Seminary in April, I lectured on the “Controversial Origins of Western Theological Seminary.” A similar lecture was given to the Holland Area Historical Society in October. To the Third Reformed Church adult Sunday school class, I lectured on “Protestant Pietism, 1650-1800.”



Donald J. *Bruggink*

The Canons of Dort: God's Freedom, Justice, and Persistence, by Eugene P. "Gene" Heideman (Van Raalte Press, 2023) was the major project of my year as editor thereof. At the time of Gene's death on May 15, 2022, at the age of ninety-two, this commentary on the Canons of Dort had been his major project for over a decade, during which time *Hendrik P. Scholte: His Legacy in the Netherlands and in America* was published (Eerdmans, 2015). (The gestation period of *Canons* should already be evident.) As a consummate theologian, one of Gene's favorite mantras was: "In systematic theology, when one doctrine changes, all the other doctrines have to change." Thus, over the aforementioned decade, as Gene's theology continued to evolve, so did *Canons* as he continued to write new versions.



A suggested title for an earlier version of the book was "The Canons of Dort for Today," illustrating Gene's purpose in writing about this seventeenth-century document. As the appointed editor of that earlier version, I raised the question as to whether or not he was adequately serving his purpose without addressing the work of the two most influential Reformed theologians of the twentieth century, namely Karl Barth and Jurgen

Moltmann. Gene's response was, "When an editor is wrong, he or she can be ignored, but when the editor is right, a rewrite is necessary." Since struggling with theology was Gene's delight, he was not suffering as he continued to write and rewrite. Unfortunately, a serious fracture befell his wife Mary, and his devoted care for her radically impeded his research.

Having read the initial manuscript on the canons, I was aware of Gene's rich theological and biblical insights and believed that his work was eminently worthy of publication. I sought permission from his wife and children (to whom the book is dedicated) to edit and prepare the book for publication; it was granted, and the thumb drive devoted to the book was turned over to me.

Editing the first two chapters—into which Gene had placed the Canons of Dort and the synod that had produced them firmly within their historical theological and political context—was relatively simple. Entering into the theology of Dort confronted me with many unexpected issues.

Perhaps the most time consuming for this editor was the fact that, as Gene continued to write, sometimes whole chapters had to be recast as his theology changed. Sometimes this became a problem of gargantuan proportions. For instance, the thumb drive contained three versions of chapter 3, each one marked "final," but not one of them carrying a date. This failure to date one's work is one many of us share, and memory sometimes enables us to compensate, but the assistance of memory does not exist when the author is no longer with us.

A second major issue I confronted was that Gene had not found the time to deal directly with the theology of Barth and Moltmann as they dealt with the theology of Dort. But I did not presume to rewrite Gene's theology to say what I think he would have said. This book is Gene's. The only freedom I assumed was to quote in the footnotes a few brief statements by either Barth or Moltmann as they clearly related to the issues raised by Dort. This was done only to illustrate our loss in not having Gene's mind to address these issues. With the exception of my clearly attributed footnotes, the theological conclusions of the book, fitting coherently within the whole, are entirely Gene's. The author of the book is indeed, Eugene P. Heideman.

In retrospect: Was undertaking the editing and preparation of this book for publication worth the effort? To that, I must reply with a resounding “Yes!” Gene rids us of many of the misunderstandings of Dort that have given it a bad name, rejecting even the “beloved” acronym of “TULIP.” And in so doing, he clarifies the fact that the primary concern of Dort was not predestination, much as the Arminians would have it, but the issue was God’s grace. Gene often spoke of Dort as the “high point of the Reformation” because of its affirmation in freedom, justice, and the persistence of God’s grace. An unanswered question is whether Gene would have taken us as far as Karl Barth in his affirmation of God’s grace.

Heideman also does a superb job of examining the biblical texts, both those in the Canons and those in the Rejection of Errors. Speaking not stridently but softly, Gene asserts that many of the biblical texts cited do not bear the weight they were stated to carry. This was especially and consistently true with reference to the doctrine of reprobation. Gene graciously acknowledges that he is writing with biblical hermeneutic rather than scholastic, insisting upon the priority of scripture. Yes, the book in its present form deserves publication and a wide readership. Gene does much to rescue the Canons of Dort from the calumny so frequently heaped upon it. I have tried to pique the curiosity of its content by its cover. The Netherlands is exceedingly rich in churches designed in contemporary architectural styles, with great variety. I hope that one such church, chosen for the cover, with its elegant presentation by cover designer Marena DeLeau, will entice the reader to digest the seventeenth-century Canons of Dort in our present age.



With Joanne Bent at a dinner celebrating the publication by the Van Raalte Press of two books: Heideman’s Canons of Dort and Swierenga’s A. C. Van Raalte, Haworth Hotel, Hope College, October 12, 2023.

Excerpt

Eugene P. Heideman, *The Canons of Dort*, and its final chapter, “Also Glorified,” 370-71.

It is not only human beings who are glorified in Christ. The whole of creation is transformed by his presence. The present world will be renewed. There is not a second, brand new creation, but a re-creation of the existing world. . . . Just as, by the grace of God, there is a continuity of the spiritual body with the physical body, so also we can anticipate that there will be continuity between the present world and the renewed and transformed world.

Eternal rest is neither eternal sleep nor eternal idleness but a life of eternal joy in God and eternal progress in community activity and wisdom under God.

Meanwhile, I continue to work on my longstanding assignment to digitize the photos taken on Western Christendom Travel Seminars, as well as those from the overseas seminars I have conducted for the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art, and Architecture, an affiliate of the American Institute of Architects. Western Theological Seminary’s “Image Community,” under my name, is composed of sixteen collections, to date, totaling 3,916 images. Each collection is organized sequentially with a brief commentary. The collections and the community can both be searched for specific content. Contact WTS for access to these collections.

My current project is to assist in bringing to fruition a need brought to the fore by Charles “Chuck” Van Engen, to wit, a brief comprehensive history of the Reformed Church in America. Although there are over a hundred volumes in the Historical Series of the RCA, there is no single *brief* history. The need for Korean, Hispanic, and Anglo candidates for ordination to have an overview of the history of the RCA is especially acute, but the need for such a volume for new RCA pastors, church leaders, and congregants is also apparent.

Chuck served as a missionary in Chiapas, Mexico, but as a professor, he taught missiology at Western Theological Seminary and

Fuller Theological Seminary. As founding president and CEO of Latin American Christian Ministries/Programa Doctoral en Teología PRODOLA, he has entrusted Sam Hofman, lifelong missionary in Chiapas, with responsibilities in teaching history; Katy Sundararajan, graduate of and writing specialist at Western Theological Seminary; and myself to act as editorial board of this project, the idealism of which becomes apparent in the details—no more than 150 pages of thirty chapters. These five-page chapters are to be written by experts in their fields, covering a short, specific, period of time.

The year of 2023 came to an end with the next task being that of naming those experts (to which I shall return as soon as this report is finished).



Nella Kennedy

Older Hope College alumni will remember that they worshipped in “Memorial Chapel,” not in “Dimnent Chapel” or, more accurately, “Dimnent Memorial Chapel.” The change came about after Hope president Edward D. Dimnent’s death in 1959 when the board of trustees decided to add his name to the chapel. He had resisted this during his lifetime because he wanted to honor everyone who had contributed to the growth of Hope Academy into Hope College.

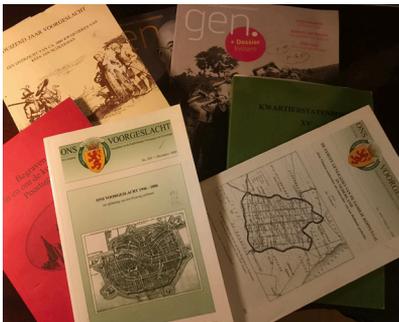
Although much has been written about the chapel since its completion in 1929, a more definitive survey has always been needed. Jack Nyenhuis laid the groundwork for this in his two-volume, *Hope College at 150* (Van Raalte Press, 2019), but he could not include everything he had collected over the years. I have therefore spent the last year and a half (and more) on further research, exploring, as it were, the nooks and crannies of this imposing structure. My aim has been not only to provide additional information about the structure’s architecture but also, more importantly, to create a large-format book in which the stained-glass windows can be shown to greatest advantage. To explore the architectural details has been delightful, but my main effort has been to describe and analyze the windows. The ground-floor lancets, with their double tiers of New and Old Testament figures, and the chancel on the east end, with its four lancet windows oriented to Christ’s life, are full of colorful symbols

and decorative devices. The subject matter of the large, stained-glass rose window on the west end is particularly noteworthy.

It is clear that Edward Dimnent was fond of the rose window, and he expressed it when he spoke in great detail about its content during periodic tours given to students. The window is basically a personal theological and educational statement. Dimnent liked to operate independently in all affairs of the college, and the lack of documentation in the Dimnent archives points to this fact. It would not be out of order, therefore, to entitle the book “Dimnent’s Memorial Chapel.” But that is a ways off yet.



Dimnent Chapel, north and west sides.



Samples of genealogical materials.



Our annual Christmas gathering was the perfect opportunity for my colleagues to surprise me with a birthday party.

Earl Wm. “Bill” Kennedy

Senior Research Fellow Emeritus



Since I am only semiretired from my position as senior research fellow, I still share an office with my wife, enjoy daily coffee hours with colleagues, and engage in a few professional activities.

My major project this year was to prepare, present, and edit a paper for publication. The venue for its presentation was the biennial conference of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies held at Trinity Christian College in the Chicago area at the end of June. Several of the Van Raalte Institute fellows participated in the conference whose theme was “Who is Dutch in North America?” I chose as my topic the history of the present interest of Dutch Americans in their family trees, with illustrations from my own experience as a long-term amateur genealogist. I expect a revised and enlarged version of my paper to be published, together with the other conference papers, in the book resulting from this conference.

In addition, I have translated a short biography of Rev. Marten Annes Ypma (1810-1863), pastor of Vriesland and other immigrant congregations, for the use of the institute, as well as some newspaper articles on Zeeland for the book Bob Swierenga is writing on the history of that community. I have also done a bit of research and editing for Nella, and I do occasional genealogical research for my colleagues at the institute. I remain the Reformed Church’s unofficial representative on the board of the Dutch Reformed Translation Society.

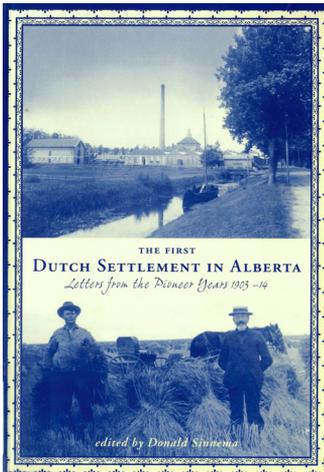
Finally, much of my time has been taken up with noninstitute matters, namely, entering the data about my ancestry (it’s not Dutch) on ancestry.com. to preserve it for the benefit of posterity and for anyone else who might find it helpful.

Honorary **Research Fellows**

Don Sinnema



For more than a decade, I have been a regular visitor one day a week at the Van Raalte Institute, and now I am honored to be an honorary research fellow. Over the years, I have occasionally written articles on various topics in Dutch Canadian and Dutch American studies. The largest project has been a book of pioneer letters that I translated and edited under the title, *The First Dutch Settlement in Alberta: Letters from the Pioneer Years 1903-1914*. Many of these letters I collected from *De Grondwet*, the Dutch newspaper of Holland, Michigan, available on microfilm in the Hope College Archives.



I have lately been focusing on projects relating to the Synod of Dordt (1618-19), which addressed the Arminian controversy on the doctrine of grace. I am one of the general editors of a major international project to publish all the documents of the Synod of Dordt in their original languages in a series of ten volumes, titled *Acta et Documenta Synodi Nationalis Dordrechtanae*. Thus far, three volumes have been published. I am working on the fourth, which includes early drafts of the Canons of Dordt.

I am awaiting the publication from Reformation Heritage Books of a collection of my previously published and unpublished articles on the Synod of Dordt and the Canons. I updated these articles for this volume. I am also updating my doctoral dissertation on the Synod of Dordt to prepare it for publication.

Last fall, an article of mine, “The First Edition of William Ames’s *Medulla Sacrae Theologiae* (1623) as a Disputation Cycle,” was published in *Calvin Theological Journal*. This very rare first edition of the Puritan Ames’ famous *Marrow of Sacred Divinity* exists in only three incomplete copies and has never before been carefully studied.

George Harinck



The year 2023 started with the sad news of the death of my former PhD student, historian Enne Koops (1978-2023), who in 2010 defended his dissertation on the migration of Protestants and Catholics to North America after the Second World War (*“De dynamiek van een emigratiecultuur”*). He died in January, only forty-four years old. He was a teacher and active as an historian on the Dutch website *historiek.com*. He leaves behind a wife and three young children. We will miss him dearly.²

This year, I visited North America three times. In April the Abraham Kuyper Conference was held at Redeemer University in Ancaster, Ontario. I gave a lecture on “Abraham Kuyper and the Jews.” In July I lectured at the AADAS conference in Palos Heights, Illinois, on “The Netherlands Reformed Church and the Tercentenary of the RCA in 1928,” but I did not find time to make the text ready for publication in the upcoming AADAS volume. I hope to do this for the celebrations of 2028, which I am preparing with Leon van den Broeke and Jaap Jacobs, with events hopefully in both the Netherlands and the United States. In November I gave the Global Bavinck Scholars lecture on the influence of Herman Bavinck in North America at the Reformed Theological Seminary in Washington, DC: “Herman Bavinck: Broad and Wide and Far.” On my way to Washington, I stayed some days at Princeton University, researching Dutch American correspondence in the papers of B. B. Warfield.³

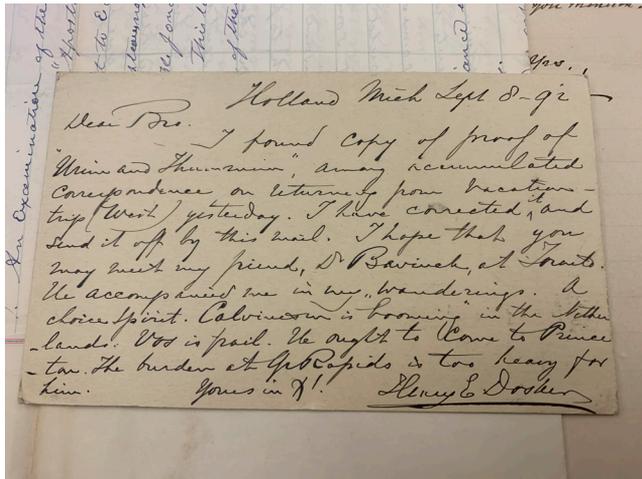
Together with my colleague, New Testament scholar Annette Merz, I received a grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO) for a project on the involvement of the Dutch Reformed Church in slavery in the days of the VOC (Dutch East India Company) and WIC (Dutch West India Company) and till the present day. The project started in January and will last for five years. Though this project hardly touches on the Dutch American relations researched at the Van Raalte Institute, American historiography on slavery and abolition (including the stances in Dutch American enclaves) is used throughout this project. The project immediately attracted a lot of attention, since in 2023, the Netherlands celebrated

² I supervised Enne’s PhD project, together with Hans Krabbendam. For a complete bio, see: <https://www.ennekoops.nl/over-mij/>.

³ Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield (1851-1921) was an American professor of Reformed theology at Princeton Seminary from 1887 to 1921.

160 years of formal abolition of slavery in the Caribbean (on July 1, 1863). For the churches in the Netherlands, this was an important moment to make them realize their involvement in slavery.

I have been working on my book on Dutch American relations in Dutch Reformed circles, but due to my responsibilities as rector of Theological University Utrecht, I have not been able to spend as much time on this project as I had hoped. I am also looking forward to the Van Raalte Press publication of the proceedings of the 2018 Scholte conference in Pella, Iowa, “‘No one can serve two lords.’ The Life and Times of Hendrik Peter Scholte (1805-1868),” edited by myself, Donald J. Bruggink, and Lori Witt.



Postcard of Henry E. Dosker to B. B. Warfield, September 8, 1892: “I hope that you may meet my friend, Dr. Bavinck, at [the conference of the Presbyterian Alliance in] Toronto” (B. B. Warfield Papers, Princeton Theological Seminary).

Jan Boersema with Anthonia Boersema-Bremmer

(photo taken by Haarlem photographer Fjodor Buis)



The year 2023 looked to be a rather quiet, “in between” year. A year in which, after the international Easter Island conference of 2022, the organizers could quietly work on the proceedings we hope to release in 2024. A year also in which Anthonia and I could continue working on our manuscript, “We made the wilderness to blossom” (*Wij bengen de wildernis tot bloei*), at the Van Raalte Institute in the spring. And so the year began. We spent another two months in Holland, Michigan, and presented some of our work at the AADAS conference at Trinity College, Palos Heights.

The autumn was unfortunately less quiet. Our country was rocked by an election result that no one expected and which brought a lot of uncertainty. On a personal level, there was also a shock. In October Anthonia had a nasty fall from her bicycle, and after an eight-day-long visit to the hospital (LUMC), the cause of her fall turned out to be heart failure. In December she received a pacemaker and is now on the road to further recovery.

Apart from working on our book, this past year, I was able to write a couple of reviews, a subject publication, and an academic article (listed below, under publications) and create a photo album of our trip to the Dakotas in the past year. My work as a confidential counselor for the PhD students also required a lot of commitment with a few awkward and tragic cases at the end of year.

We are both active in our PKN (Protestant Church in the Netherlands) congregation, and Anthonia teaches newcomers as a “language buddy.” Last month, she worked with a Hungarian. Arrangements have now been made with the publisher Atlas/Contact, Amsterdam, for our book for 2024. It should be published in the autumn. Our photo above will appear in the publisher’s brochure. For the next few months, the mandate is to “write!”

In autumn, we hope to again head toward Holland, Michigan.

Judy Parr



My primary focus in 2023 was to respond to Nella Kennedy's comments and edits to the first draft of my biography of Edward D. Dimment that will accompany the book she is writing about the Dimment Memorial Chapel. I added some details and responded to queries from John Dryfhout. As Nella reviews the revised draft, I plan to make additional revisions and complete a selected bibliography of major sources.

From April 15 to 22, 2023, I participated in a Netherlands Waterway Cruise, organized by Witte Travel & Tours. Paul and Michelle Heusinkveld also participated in this trip. We boarded the *MPS Salvinia*, our floating hotel, in Arnhem and took various bus excursions from the boat as it traveled to Amsterdam.

Stops along the IJssel River on our way to the IJsselmeer included the cities Doesburg, Zutphen, Deventer, Zwolle, Kampen, Sloten, Sneek, Franeker, and Harlingen. In Zutphen, I and others attended the Sunday church service at the historic Walburgis Kerk (Walbergiskerk). The woman preacher spoke from the main floor rather than from the pulpit.

After crossing the IJsselmeer, we stopped at Medemblik, Zaandam, and Amsterdam, where we left the ship and rode the bus back to Schiphol Airport. We took bus trips along the way to Giethoorn, Dwingeloo, Zaanse Schans, and Keukenhof Gardens where tulips were in bloom. From the ship, I spied a work of art along the seashore near Lelystad. Titled *Exposure*, or *Crouching Man*, the wire sculpture by Antony Gormley is eighty-five feet high.



At a shop for tourists, I resisted the temptation to purchase some oversized klompen (wooden clogs).

Whether on ship, bus, or foot, I appreciated the attractive, pristine countryside of the Netherlands, unmarred by commercial billboards.

In activities more related to my role as an honorary research fellow, I appreciated the invitation to join in various celebrations:

On February 20, I attended the launch of George Kraft's *A Place to Call Home: A Missionary Kid's Tale* (Van Raalte Press, 2022). I helped George create a PowerPoint from many of the book's illustrations, and I arranged his September 24 presentation to the adult education class at Hope Church in Holland.

On September 14, I attended the celebration hosted by the Van Raalte Institute to honor Jack and Lee Nyenhuis for their many decades of service.

On October 12, the VRI honored Bob Swierenga, the late Eugene P. Heideman, and Donald Bruggink for their publications (see the individual reports of Swierenga and Bruggink). I enjoyed the dinner at the Haworth Inn in their honor and am learning much from Swierenga's magisterial biography of Van Raalte.

On November 15, I delighted in the company of VRI colleagues and their spouses at the Dutch American Heritage Day dinner at the Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville.

And, of course, I always appreciate the informative and entertaining conversations over coffee and sweets around the table in the conference room.

Publications

- Aay, Henk. "Eastern Ave: An Affirming Congregation within the CRC?" *PEPP, Presenting Eastern's People and Programs* 36, no. 3 (2023): 14-16.
- Boersema, Jan J. "Anthropocene, Growth, Progress, and Enlightened Christianity." *Reviews in Science, Religion and Theology* 2, no. 3 (2023): 28-43.
- Sinnema, Donald, Christian Moser, Erik de Boer, and Herman Selderhuis. *Acta et Documenta Synodi Nationalis Dordrechtanae (1618-1619)*. Vol. 2:1. *Convening of the Synod of Dordt*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2023.
- , "The First Edition of William Ames's *Medulla Sacrae Theologiae* (1623) as a Disputation Cycle." *Calvin Theological Journal* 58, no. 2 (2023), 233-64.
- Swierenga, Robert P. "A. C. Van Raalte: Dominee 'on the go.'" *Origins* 41, no. 1 (2023): 4-11.
- . *A. C. Van Raalte: Pastor by Vocation, Entrepreneur by Necessity*. Van Raalte Press, 2023.
- , with Andrew Klumpp. "The Dutch Midwest." *Oxford Encyclopedia of the American Midwest*. Ed. John Lauck. Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
- . Book review (forthcoming) for the *Standard Bearer*. P. M. Kuiper, *Through Many Dangers, Books 1 and 2*. Reformed Free Publishing Association, 2021.
- , and Michael Douma, eds. *Village Talk: A Country Merchant's Memoir and Folk History*. Amazon, 2023.

Presentations

- Heusinkveld, Paul. Lecture presentation at the AADAS conference. Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, June 2023. The presentation was an overview of my initiative to publish a book about why the Dutch immigrated to North America, based on the 1846 Landverhuizing pamphlet by Anthony Brummelkamp and A. C. Van Raalte.
- Nyenhuis, Jacob E. "Early History of the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP)." Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of HASP, Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts, Hope College, June 13, 2023.
- Swierenga, Robert P. "Dutch Chicago Revisited: Upward Mobility and White Flight." Keynote address, AADAS conference, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, June 2023.
- . "A. C. Van Raalte: Reluctant Seceder." Luncheon Lecture Series, La Grave Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 9, 2023.
- . "Overisel Community 175th Anniversary, 1848-2023." Overisel Reformed Church, Michigan, November 11, 2023.
- Voskuil, Dennis N. "The Controversial Origins of Western Theological Seminary." Founders Day Lectures, Mulder Chapel, WTS, April 2023.
- . "The Controversial Origins of Western Theological Seminary." Holland Area Historical Society, Pillar Church, October 9, 2023.
- . "Protestant Pietism, 1650-1800." Adult church school class. Third Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, May 14, 2023.

Publications
**by Senior and Visiting
Research Fellows and
Other Associates of the
Van Raalte Institute**

1994-2023

- Aay, Henk. *American Eyes on the Netherlands: Film, Public Diplomacy, and Dutch Identity, 1943-74, including a Survey of Dutch Visual Media in America from the 17th to the 21st Century*. Van Raalte Press, forthcoming.
- , Janny Venema, Dennis Voskuil, eds. *Sharing Pasts: Dutch Americans through Four Centuries*. Van Raalte Press, 2017.
- Baer, Marc, and Allison Utting. *Making Music: Hope College's Music Department, A History*. Van Raalte Press, 2020.
- Bennett, Christine Iverson, and Arthur King Bennett. *The Stories of Arthur King and Shritine Iverson Bennett: Medical Missionaries in Mesopotamia, 1904-1916*. Van Raalte Press, 2023.
- Bruins, Elton J., Karen G. Schakel, Sara Fredrickson Simmons, and Marie N. Zingle. *Albertus and Christina: The Van Raalte Family, Home and Roots*. Eerdmans, 2004.
- . *The Americanization of a Congregation*. 2nd ed. Eerdmans, 1995.
- , and Karen G. Schakel, eds. *Envisioning Hope College: Letters Written by Albertus C. Van Raalte to Philip Phelps Jr., 1857 to 1875*. Van Raalte Press; Eerdmans, 2011.
- Bruggink, Donald J., Dennis N. Voskuil, and William Katerberg, eds. *Dutch Immigrant Stories*. Van Raalte Press, 2022.
- Cox, John D. *The City in Its Heart: The First 100 Years of Maple Avenue Ministries, Holland, Michigan, 1913-2013*. Van Raalte Press, 2014.
- Dickason, David G. *Faith, Hope, and Love: The Hakeem's Journey*. Van Raalte Press, 2022.
- Ester, Peter. *Faith, Family, and Fortune: Reformed Upbringing and Calvinist Values of Highly Successful Dutch American Entrepreneurs*. Van Raalte Press, 2012.
- , Nella Kennedy, and Earl Wm. Kennedy, eds. *The American Diary of Jacob Van Hinte, Author of the Classic Immigrant Study *Nederlanders in Amerika**. Van Raalte Press; Eerdmans, 2010.
- Fessler, Paul, Hubert R. Krygsman, and Robert P. Swierenga, eds. *Dutch Immigrants on the Plains*. The Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies, 2005.
- Harinck, George, and Hans Krabbendam. *Sharing the Reformed Tradition: The Dutch-North American Exchange, 1846-1996*. VU Uitgererij, 1996.
- . *'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.

- Heideman, Eugene P. *The Canons of Dort: God's Freedom, Justice, and Persistence*. Ed. Donald J. Bruggink. Van Raalte Press, forthcoming, 2023.
- . *Hendrik P. Scholte: His Legacy in the Netherlands and in America*. Van Raalte Press; Eerdmans, 2015.
- . *The Practice of Piety: The Theology of the Midwestern Reformed Church in America, 1866-1966*. Eerdmans, 2009.
- Hemenway, Stephen. *Hope Beyond Borders: The Life and Letters of Paul Fried*. Van Raalte Press, 2014.
- Heusinkveld, Paul. *Elephant Baseball: A Missionary Kid's Tale*. Eerdmans, 2017.
- , with Margaret Doorenbos. *Margaret's Mission to Arabia, Africa, and India 1965-2010*. Van Raalte Press, 2021.
- Jacobson, Jeanne M., Elton J. Bruins, and Larry J. Wagenaar. *Albertus C. Van Raalte: Dutch Leader and American Patriot*. Hope College, 1996.
- Japinga, Lynn. *Loyalty and Loss: The Reformed Church in America, 1945-1994*. Eerdmans, 2013.
- Kennedy, Earl Wm. *A Commentary on the Minutes of the Classis of Holland, 1848-76: A Detailed Record of Persons and Issues, Civil and Religious, in the Dutch Colony of Holland, Michigan*. 3 vols. Van Raalte Press, 2018.
- , Donald A. Luidens, and David Zwart, eds. *Dutch Muck—and Much More: Dutch Americans in Farming, Religion, Art, and Astronomy*. Van Raalte Press, 2019.
- Kennedy, James C., and Caroline J. Simon. *Can Hope Endure: An Historical Case Study in Christian Higher Education*. Eerdmans, 2005.
- Kennedy, Nella, Mary Risseuw, and Robert P. Swierenga, eds. *Diverse Destinies: Dutch Colonies in Wisconsin and the East*. Van Raalte Press, 2012.
- Krabbendam, Hans. *Freedom on the Horizon: Dutch Immigration to America, 1840-1940*. Eerdmans, 2009.

- Kraft, George. *A Place to Call Home: A Missionary Kid's Tale*. Van Raalte Press, 2022.
- Luidens, Donald A., Donald J. Bruggink, Herman J. De Vries Jr. *Dutch Reformed Education: Immigrant Legacies in North America*. Van Raalte Press, 2020.
- , and JoHannah M. Smith. *Jack: A Compassionate Compendium. A Tribute to Dr. Jacob E. Nyenhuis: Scholar, Servant, Leader*. Van Raalte Press, 2018.
- . *Seeds of Hope, Hate, and Change: Missionary Witnesses to the Middle East in Transition*. 2 vols. Van Raalte Press, 2020.
- Nyenhuis, Jacob E. *et alii. Hope at 150: Anchored in Faith, Educating for Leadership and Service in a Global Society*. Van Raalte Press, 2019.
- , Suzanne M. Sinke, and Robert P. Swierenga, eds. *Across Borders: Dutch Migration to North America and Australia*. Van Raalte Press, 2010.
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- . *A Goodly Heritage: Essays in Honor of the Reverend Dr. Elton J. Bruins at Eighty*. Eerdmans, 2007.
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- Parr, Judy. *Hope Church: Holland, Michigan. The First 150 Years, 1862-2012*. Van Raalte Press, 2012.
- Renner, Thomas L. *In Pursuit of Excellence. Be Strong—Be True: A History of Intercollegiate Athletics at Hope College, 1970–2020*. 2 vols. Van Raalte Press, 2022.
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- . *Son of Secession: Douwe J. Vander Werf*. Eerdmans, 2006.
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- Swierenga, Robert P. A. C. *Van Raalte: Pastor by Vocation, Entrepreneur by Necessity*. Van Raalte Press, 2023.
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- , Donald Sinnema, and Hans Krabbendam, eds., *The Dutch in Urban America*. The Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies, 2004.
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- . *His Faithfulness Continues: A History of Timothy Christian Schools of Chicagoland*. Van Raalte Press, 2020.
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- , and Jacob E. Nyenhuis, eds. *Historic Dutch Sites in the Holland/Zeeland Area: An Illustrated Tour Guide*. Van Raalte Press, 2015.
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- , Adriaan de Wit, and Gordon De Young, eds. *Netherlanders in America: A Study of Emigration and Settlement in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries in the United States of America*, by Jacob Van Hinte. The Historical Committee of the Christian Reformed Church, 2003.
- , and William Van Appledorn, eds. *Old Wing Mission: Cultural Interchange as Chronicled by George and Arvilla Smith in their Work with Chief Wakazoo's Ottawa Band on the West Michigan Frontier*. Eerdmans, 2008.
- Van den Broeke, Leon. "Pope of the Classis"?: *The Leadership of Albertus C. Van Raalte in Dutch and American Classes*. Van Raalte Press, 2011.
- Verhave, Jan Peter. *A Constant State of Emergency: Paul de Kruij, Microbe Hunter and Health Activist*. Van Raalte Press, 2020.

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

***“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, NL

***Seeds of Hope, Seeds of Hate: A Love Story (Begins)* (2016)**

Don 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 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

The History of Divorce in the Reformed Church in America* (2022)

Lynn M. Japinga, Hope College

***Robert H. Schuller and Church Growth Christianity* (2022)**

Mark T. Mulder, Calvin University

***Edward D. Dimment and His Memorial Chapel* (2022)**

Judy Tanis Parr, Honorary Research Fellow

***The Origins of the Hope-Calvin Men's Basketball Rivalry* (2023)**

Chad Carlson, Hope College

***The Holland Area's First Entrepreneurs: Who They Were, What They Did, and Why They Were Successful* (2023)**

Steven VanderVeen, Hope College

*Video links of lectures since 2022 are posted at hope.edu/vri

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Dennis N. Voskuil

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Interim President (2017-19)
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PhD Harvard University

Applications Invited
**Visiting Research Fellows
Programs**

for Academic Year 2024-25

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 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 Hope College Archives and Special Collections 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: Information about expectations, arrangements, and the application process may be obtained from our website at www.hope.edu/vri.

Mission Statement of the 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 Van Raalte Institute of Hope College honors the memory and vision of the Reverend Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte, the founder of Holland, Michigan, by engaging in and promoting the study of his life and legacy, exploring the history of the West Michigan community, and publishing, through the Van Raalte Press, scholarly work on Dutch-American relations and Dutch immigration and heritage in North America and around the globe.

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. Heading west, 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 that 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 visiting research fellows. Through liaison with scholars and educational and cultural institutions in the Netherlands and other countries, the institute seeks to promote an 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.

