

Summer 2000

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Hope College

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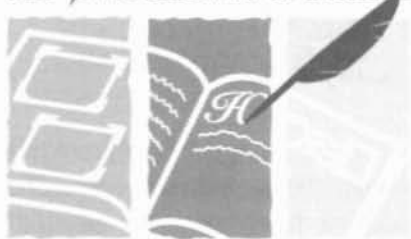
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Robert Swierenga Knighted

Dr. Robert P. Swierenga is arguably the best-known Dutch American scholar alive today. Over the years he has published countless works that are a treasure trove of information and a major resource for those who visit the Joint Archives of Holland.



Presentation of the medal by Gilbert Monod de Froideville

During his years at Kent State University, he trained numerous historians – and an archivist along the way as well. Larry Wagenaar, director of the Joint Archives, and Hans Krabbendam, assistant director of the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg the Netherlands, are both former students. They came together to give Dr. Swierenga two unexpected birthday gifts. At a conference held in his honor, the volume *The Dutch American Experience: Essays in Honor of Robert P. Swierenga* was unveiled. In addition, the relatively rare knighting of an American citizen by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands served as a capstone of a very special day.

“The actual conference emerged as a ‘cover’ for the book we were working on,” according to Wagenaar. “As we brought together scholars to participate in this volume, it was clear we needed both an event to present it and, since all of the contributors know Robert Swierenga, a way to hide

our activities. The conference gave us great cover to ‘hide in plain sight.’ It also allowed us to get our honoree as a keynote speaker without tipping our hand!”

The conference was held in the Maas Center at Hope College on Friday, June 9. Presentation of the book took place after a well-crafted discussion of Swierenga’s career by Dr. Harry Stout of Yale University. In the afternoon the second surprise occurred as Swierenga was named a “Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion.” Gilbert Monod de Froideville, Dutch Consul General in Chicago, conferred the knighthood on behalf of Queen Beatrix.

A participant in the conference as well as its guest of honor, Swierenga had completed his scheduled keynote address immediately before the Consul General spoke. “Now I truly am speechless,” Swierenga said. “Thanks to the ambassador, the Consul General and the Queen. I can’t believe it.”

(continued on page 4)

NEW BOOK ON DUTCH AMERICAN HISTORY

A book-length collection of essays on Dutch American history has been published in honor of Robert P. Swierenga. *The Dutch American Experience: Essays in Honor of Robert P. Swierenga* debuted during a day-long conference held in tribute to Swierenga at Hope College on Friday, June 9.

The book’s essays offer expanded treatments of the presentations made during the conference. In fact, the book inspired the event, according to Larry Wagenaar, who is director of the Joint Archives and co-edited the book and co-coordinated the conference.

(continued on page 5)

From the Director

Although we have been through the process before, hosting a major academic conference is a good deal of work. But this one was surely worth it! We were able to honor a man who truly deserves the attribution often ascribed to him--Dean of Dutch American Studies--our own Dr. Robert P. Swierenga.

Swierenga has been part of the Hope College faculty since 1996 after retiring from a long career at Kent State University. Since entering the profession in the mid-1960s, he has published countless books and articles, many of them exploring the issues of immigration--especially as they relate to the Dutch.

It would be impossible for historians like Swierenga to do their work without the primary resources available in the archives. Places like the Joint Archives, Calvin College Archives, and other repositories are among the regular stops of people who require historical information. Furthermore, in Holland the joint involvement of the Holland Museum, Hope College, and Western Seminary is invaluable to all levels of research. Your donations of letters, photos, diaries, etc. are also critical to remembering our history.

This fall we will host another major event that will highlight the Joint Archives and its growing role as a regional and nationally significant historical repository. On Thursday, November 16, we will officially open the Guy A. Vander Jagt Congressional Papers. Congressman Vander Jagt served in the U.S. House of Representatives for nearly thirty years, and the opening of his papers--which include voluminous resources on regional, national, and international issues--is a major new resource to scholars and the public.

The Vander Jagt collection arrived in 1992 and 1993 and comprised over 700 boxes representing nearly 1,200 linear feet. Over the next three years we raised funds to support the professional processing of this collection and began this work in earnest in 1996. The collection includes letters from foreign dignitaries, papers from his key work on the Ways and Means Committee, and his dialogue with several U.S. presidents. In all, it is a rich resource for research.

The Joint Archives is committed to preserving the past and making it available for research. We hope that you will have an opportunity to visit us or call next time you have a historical question that needs an answer!

Larry J. Wagenaar

2000 Oral History Project Hope Faculty Retirees

The large crop of recent Hope College retirees represents a wide assortment of different fields and personalities. Continuing the tradition of student-run summer oral history projects, Melissa LaBarge interviewed a dozen recently retired faculty. She was amazed by the stories, as past professors recollected their decades at Hope College. The interviews focused on the changes they have witnessed in both the college and the community.



Melissa LaBarge

Let's start with the obvious; Hope has gotten bigger. Many of the interviewed faculty started at the college in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Decisions were made by the faculty as a whole, but as the faculty grew, a board and committee structure replaced this process. Presidents Calvin VanderWerf and his successor, Gordon Van Wylen, led a wave of new hiring. Faculty, spanning every department, knew each other, and the staff lounge in Van Raalte Hall, where professors joined each other for coffee and lunch, encouraged closeness. Van Raalte Hall, however, burned down in 1980, marking just one of the physical changes at Hope College.

Other changes include razing Carnegie Gymnasium, which was replaced by the DeWitt Center expansion. Then there is the roaming library, which shifted from Graves to Van Zoeren to its most recent home in Van Wylen. Other additions, such as the Dow Center and the Haworth Center, have also increased the size of the campus.

Overall, the professors Melissa interviewed had a deep love for Hope College. In every interview, it became apparent that Hope professors have a passion for their students. Hope College, for these retirees, was more than a place of academia--it was a place that fostered relationships. The overwhelming response when she questioned the retirees about what they were going to miss the most was their interactions with students.

Each professor Melissa interviewed told a story that uniquely unfolded the changes that Hope College has undergone. What a rich resource for the future!

Guy A. Vander Jagt Congressional Papers Open Fall 2000

The congressional papers of Rep. Guy A. Vander Jagt (R-MI), 1967-92, offers an inside seat on some of the greatest milestones and controversies our nation has faced as well as a political road map for the 9th District of Michigan. In his 13 terms in the House of Representatives, Congressman Vander Jagt was witness to the scandals of Watergate, the Iran/Contra affair, and the resignation of a president. His papers document the growing swell of opposition to the war in Vietnam, forced busing, the 1980s air traffic controllers strike, oil shortages, the Equal Rights Amendment, and other contemporary topics.

Five administrations came and went during Vander Jagt's tenure in Congress. His personal relationship with Gerald Ford and his loyal support for Ronald Reagan and his policies are particularly well documented, as is his disdain for Jimmy Carter. A bonus to the collection is the wealth of information documenting the nation's 1976 Bicentennial celebration.

Annual 9th District trailer tours and questionnaires allowed Vander Jagt to keep in touch with his Western Michigan constituents. The Congressman took a personal interest in 9th District issues such as agriculture, employment, environment, the Great Lakes, and Western Michigan development. Records relating to drought relief, crop pricing, Indian gill net fishing, Michigan railroads, hazardous waste clean-up, cross-lake transportation, Great Lakes dredging and erosion, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and 9th District development projects are rich with controversy and the nuances of politics. Further, these records provide a valuable historical guide of Western Michigan.

Under the direction of professionals at the Joint Archives of Holland, archival interns have worked for three consecutive summers to ready this large collection. The work was augmented during the rest of the year by the Joint Archives staff. The process began in 1998 with intern Helen Baer from the University of Texas, who had the daunting task of forming a general organizational plan and "jumping off" point in the processing of records spanning 26 years, totaling well over 700+ boxes and almost 1,200 linear feet. Her political science background led her naturally to begin work on the Congressman's campaign and public relations files. In 1999, summer intern Christina Schmidt from the University of Michigan applied her exceptional organizational and research skills to determine an overall framework for organizing the collection. She processed

Vander Jagt's congressional bill files, documenting legislation he sponsored and/or co-sponsored, as well as his official voting records on the House floor. This summer,



Sallie Garrett

Sallie Garrett, an MLIS candidate from the University of Texas, will complete the Congressman's legislative, departmental, and general correspondence files. These records encompass the bulk of the collection and reveal Vander Jagt's interactions with constituents, lobbyists and fellow congressmen on a wide variety of issues.

The collection is rich in information in a variety of forms. Correspondence, speeches, clippings, photos, campaign and personal memorabilia, maps, memos, film, and letters from the famous and powerful provide enticement for both the serious researcher and the simply curious.

The Guy A. Vander Jagt Papers will formally open for research on Thursday, November 16, 2000.

Vander Jagt Collection Opening and Dutch American Heritage Day

Thursday, November 16, 2000

Opening Reception at the
Joint Archives of Holland
2:30 p.m.

Dutch American Heritage Day
Haworth Center, Hope College
7:00 p.m.

Featuring Guy Vander Jagt

*Evening event by ticket only
(Available from the Joint Archives of Holland
for \$10.00 each)*

Robert Swierenga Knighted (continued from page 1)

The event, "The Dutch American Experience: A Celebration of the Career of Robert P. Swierenga," featured a series of talks by scholars from throughout the United States and the Netherlands. All of the speakers had contributed to the book. Wagenaar and Krabbendam proposed the royal decoration to the Dutch government. They also co-edited the book and co-coordinated the June 9 conference.



President James Bultman congratulates the Swierengas

Swierenga has been at Hope since 1996, serving as a senior research fellow with the college's A. C. Van Raalte Institute and as an adjunct professor of history. He had previously been a member of the history faculty at Kent State, where he served from 1968 until retiring in 1996. He has written or edited more than a dozen books and numerous journal articles, and has lectured widely on issues related to the Dutch in America. He holds his bachelor's degree from Calvin College, where he was an assistant professor from 1965 to 1968, his master's from Northwestern University, and his doctorate from the University of Iowa.

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Swierenga is best known for his extensive contributions to Dutch American studies. His prolific publications represent a wealth of information about Dutch Americans. Here is a select bibliography of his books and edited works:

For Food and Faith: Dutch Immigration to America, 1846-1960. The Holland Museum Sesquicentennial Lectures (Holland, MI: Holland Museum, 2000).

Faith and Family: Dutch Immigration and Settlement in the United States, 1820-1920 (New York: Holmes & Meier, 2000).

Robert P. Swierenga and Larry J. Wagenaar, eds., *Dutch Enterprise: Alive and Well in North America* (Holland, MI: Hope College, 2000).

Family Quarrels in the Dutch Reformed Churches of the Nineteenth Century with Elton Bruins (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999).

Robert P. Swierenga and Larry J. Wagenaar, eds., *The Sesquicentennial of Dutch Immigration: 150 Years of Ethnic Heritage* (Holland, MI: Joint Archives of Holland, 1998).

The Forerunners: Dutch Jewry in the North American Diaspora (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1994).

Belief and Behavior: Essays in the New Religious History (with Philip R. Vander Meer) (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1991).

Dutch Households in the U.S. Population Censuses: 1850, 1860, 1870: An Alphabetical Listing by Family Heads and Singles (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1987) 3 vols.

The Dutch in America: Immigration, Settlement, and Cultural Change (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1985).

Jacob Van Hinte, *Netherlanders in America: A Study of Emigration and Settlement in the 19th and 20th Centuries in the United States of America*, 2 volumes. Robert P. Swierenga, general editor, Adriaan De Wit (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985).

Dutch Immigrants in U.S. Ship Passenger Manifests, 1820-1880: An Alphabetical Listing by Household Heads and Independent Persons (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1983) 2 vols.

Dutch Emigrants to the United States, South Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia, 1835-1880: An Alphabetical Listing by Household Heads and Independent Persons (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1983).

A Bilateral Bicentennial: A History of Dutch American Relations, 1782-1982 (with J. W. Schulte Nordholt) (New York: Octagon Books, 1982).

Beyond the Civil War Synthesis: Political Essays of the Civil War Era (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1975).

Quantification in American History: Theory and Research (New York: Atheneum, 1970).

Pioneers and Profits: Land Speculation on the Iowa Frontier (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1968).

New Book on Dutch American History (continued from page 1)

Because the book features in-depth treatments of the topics highlighted during the conference, Wagenaar believes that the volume has scholarly value well beyond its origins as a way of recognizing a distinguished colleague. "It's a book that is a significant contribution to the area of Dutch American studies – we intended that from the beginning by structuring the chapters and inviting contributions that were focused. Both of us wanted a volume that would stand on its own and be published by a university press," he said.

The Dutch American Experience: Essays in Honor of Robert P. Swierenga surveys the Dutch immigrant experience in the past two centuries, presenting four general sections derived from themes found in Swierenga's work: the

relationship between worldview and immigration, the journey to the United States, the religious setting of the immigrant communities, and the role of individuals. The book also includes a section celebrating Swierenga's scholarly accomplishments.

Wagenaar and Hans Krabbendam, who is assistant director of the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands, are the book's co-editors. *The Dutch American Experience* is published by VU University Press of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

The 300-page paperback volume retails for \$49.20. The Joint Archives is offering the volume at a special price of \$39.95 (see order form).

From the Collections Archivist

The following are a few of the many new collections recently processed and illustrate the wide variety of materials available to the public in one location.

Holland Museum Collection

T88-1509. Holland Christian Schools.

Records, 1901-[ongoing]. 36.00 linear ft.

Collection relating to the Holland Christian schools, especially Holland Christian High School. Materials include programs, publications, minutes, handbooks, and promotional items. Includes a complete set of the Holland Christian High School annual yearbook, *Footprints*.

T98-1525. Getz, Bert.

Papers, c. 1920s-1993. 1.00 linear ft.

Chicago businessman whose interests included coal, ice, banking, steel, hotel, newspaper, manufacturing, and transportation. He started the Globe Corporation. In 1910, he and his wife Susan purchased land on Lake Michigan, near Holland, and drew up plans for a home, later to be known as Lakewood Farm. It included an extensive zoological exhibit, greenhouses and livestock and closed in 1933. Collection includes: newspaper clippings, 1930-1983; 214 photographs of animals, buildings, grounds, visitors, the East African expedition, family, friends, Jack Dempsey, Ottawa Beach Yacht Club, and taxidermy and skins; publications concerning George Fulmer Getz, Lakewood Farm, poultry raising; records concerning fire prevention, appraisal, and inventory of Lakewood Farm; and videotapes of the films of the original showing of "An Evening with Mr. George F. Getz in the African Jungles at the Holland Theatre, January 9, 1929."

Hope College Collection

H88-0447. Upward Bound.

Records, 1968-1990. 3.00 linear ft.

Upward Bound is a federally funded pre-college TRIO program designed to help low-income and first generation college students develop the motivation and abilities needed to finish high school and enter college. Collection includes: Advisory Board; Departmental Reviews; Financial and Budget; General Correspondence, 1968-1982; and various program information.

Western Seminary Collection

W96-1215. Holmes, Madeline (1904-1999).

Papers, 1924-1993. 3.50 linear ft.

Maryville College (TN) class of 1924. Earned an MA degree from the University of Michigan in 1928. Missionary to Arabia (1952-1968) and director of the House of Happiness Orphanage in Kuwait and Bahrain. Collection includes correspondence, writings, personal materials, and many photographs.

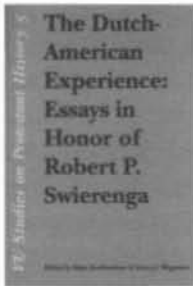
W99-1243. Michigan, Holland. Grace Reformed Church.

Records, 1962-1998. 8.00 linear ft.

Grace Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan, was organized in 1962. Materials include records of the consistory, guild, youth groups, Cadets and Calvinettes, children's worship, history and photos. This is a rich collection documenting a Holland area RCA congregation.

Geoffrey Reynolds

NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE



The Dutch American Experience: Essays in Honor of Robert P. Swierenga
Hans Krabbendam and
Larry J. Wagenaar, editors

NEW! Published by VU University Press in Amsterdam, this 300-page volume includes thoroughly researched articles on a variety of Dutch American themes. Topics include immigration and ideology, movement among the Dutch settlements in the United States, Dutch American religion, and a closer look at several Dutch Americans and their lives. The book also includes a biography and full bibliography of Robert Swierenga and his publications. Regular retail is \$49.20

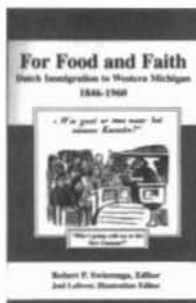
\$39.95

Family Quarrels in the Dutch Reformed Churches of the 19th Century
Elton J. Bruins and
Robert P. Swierenga



NEW! This volume is based on the Pillar Church Sesquicentennial Lectures in 1997. The book includes chapters on the 1834 Afscheiding, the 1850 Union with the Reformed Church in America, the 1857 secession which created the Christian Reformed Church, and the 1882 Masonic controversy. 158 pages.

\$18.00



For Food and Faith: Dutch Immigration to Western Michigan, 1846-1960
Robert P. Swierenga, editor
Joel Lefever, illustration editor

NEW! Published in softcover by the Holland Museum and the A. C. Van Raalte Institute, this volume is a collection of essays on aspects of Dutch immigration by Robert Swierenga, Herbert Brinks, Hans Krabbendam, George May, and Randall Vande Water. Includes many illustrations. 120 pages.

\$10.95

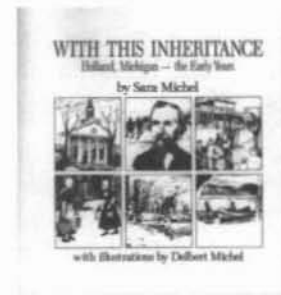


Faith and Family: Dutch Immigration and Settlement in the United States, 1820-1920
Robert P. Swierenga

NEW! Swierenga, in his latest work, presents a full study of Dutch immigrants and the patterns of their migration to the United States. He emphasizes the role of religion in immigrant life, including in-depth looks at the schism in the Dutch Reformed churches and the impact of Dutch Jews. Hardcover, 362 pages.

\$45.00

With This Inheritance: Holland, Michigan--The Early Years
Sara Michel
with illustrations by
Delbert Michel



This square-sized softcover book is a lovely overview of Dutch immigration to the Holland, Michigan, area with many photos and pen and ink illustrations. Describes the area before the settlement, the journey to America, and the challenges up to and including the great fire of 1871. 72 pages.

\$11.95



A. C. Van Raalte: Dutch Leader and American Patriot
Jeanne Jacobson, Elton Bruins,
and Larry Wagenaar

SECOND PRINTING! The first fully annotated biography of A. C. Van Raalte is a well-illustrated, 256-page hardcover volume that has been well received by reviewers. The book covers many events in the life of the Dutch pastor who led the Dutch to Western Michigan, including persecution in the Netherlands, the harrowing journey to America, struggles in the first years, Holland and the Civil War, the great fire of 1871, his wife Christine, and Van Raalte's legacy today.

\$29.95

***A Dream Fulfilled:
The Van Raalte Sculpture***
Jacob E. Nyenhuis and
Jeanne M. Jacobson



SALE PRICE! This well-illustrated volume details the design and construction of the Van Raalte statue and its placement in Centennial Park in Holland, Michigan. Includes a thirty-page history of Van Raalte and more than twenty pages on the history of the Centennial Park. Hardcover, 122 pages.

\$9.95



***Dutch Immigrant Memoirs
and Related Writings***
Selected and arranged by
Henry Lucas
with new translations

This 1,129-page volume compiles a rich number of first-hand accounts of Dutch immigrants detailing everything from the early days of settlement and the Great

Holland Fire to the Dutch migrations to Wisconsin and Iowa. You will spend many hours gripped by the stories of those who lived through these exciting times. Additional translations have been added which were not available in the rare 1955 original. Originally \$45.00.

\$15.00

AADAS Proceedings:

*Dutch Enterprise:
Alive and Well in North America* (1999)
*The Sesquicentennial of Dutch Immigration:
150 Years of Ethnic Heritage* (1997)
*The Dutch and Their Faith:
Immigrant Religious Experience* (1991)
AADAS Proceedings (1985)

\$5.00 each



***Sites of Dutch Influence in
Western Michigan: An
Illustrated Tour Guide***

A well-illustrated auto-tour guide that takes you to many significant sites related to the Dutch settling in Western Michigan. Includes easy-to-follow maps and many photographs. Originally \$4.00.

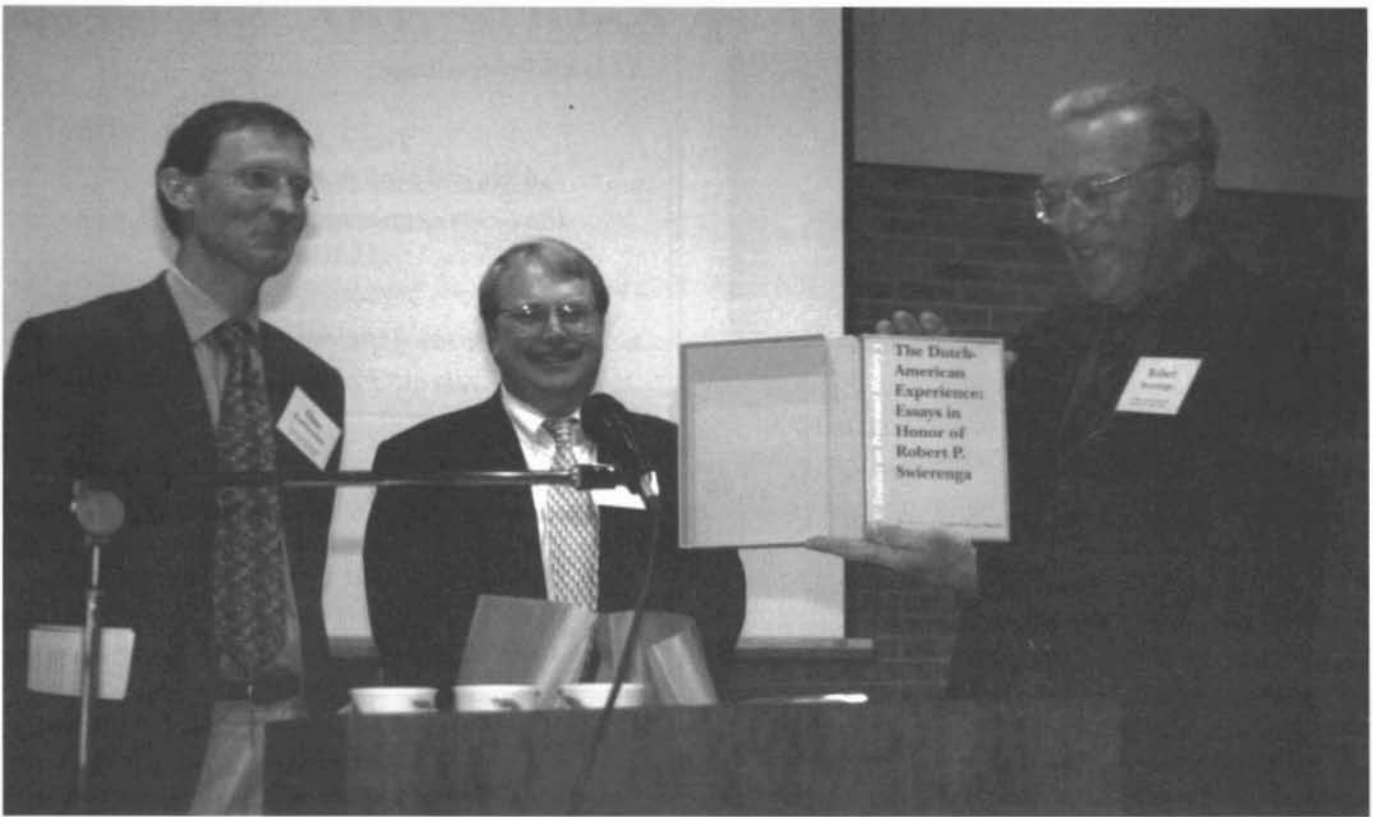
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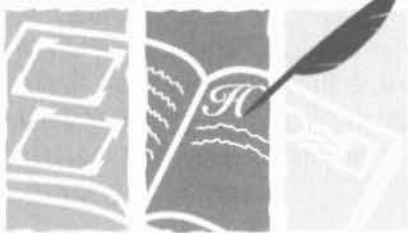
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Hans Krabbendam and Larry Wagenaar present the book to a surprised Robert Swierenga.

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The Joint Archives of Holland



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(see pages 6 & 7)***