



New York State Archives

**New Netherland Council Dutch Colonial Administrative
Correspondence A1810**

New York State Archives
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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	This series contains administrative correspondence, in Dutch, of Petrus Stuyvesant during his seventeen year term as director-general of the colony of New Netherland from 1647-1664. The bulk of the series consists of incoming letters from the directors in Amsterdam and the governors of neighboring colonies. The correspondence addresses matters relating to the defense, commercial interests, and prosperity of Dutch holdings in North America and the Caribbean.
Creator:	New Netherland. Council
Title:	Dutch colonial administrative correspondence
Quantity:	2.3 cubic feet
Inclusive Date:	1646-1664
Series:	A1810

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Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date of correspondence.

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Administrative History

The Dutch West India Company (WIC) appointed Petrus Stuyvesant director-general of New Netherland, Curacao, Bonaire, Aruba, and their dependencies in 1647, a position in which he served until 1664. During the first six years of his term he successfully dealt with significant problems which had mounted during the previous administration including issues relating to trade with native tribes; boundary lines between New England and New Netherland; competition for trade in the Delaware Valley with England and Sweden; encounters with New Sweden settlements on the Delaware River; trade in the Caribbean; and the relationship between Rensselaerwijck, the patroonship of Kiliaen van Rensselaer, and Fort Orange and

the WIC. Although there were problems with the Swedes and Native Americans in the Hudson Valley, 1654 to 1664 marked a period of growth in New Netherland.

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Scope and Content Note

This series contains administrative correspondence of Petrus Stuyvesant during his seventeen year term as director-general of the colony of New Netherland (1647-1664). The correspondence consists mainly of incoming letters from the directors of the West India Company in Amsterdam and the governors of neighboring colonies. The letters address matters relating to the defense, commercial interests, and prosperity of Dutch holdings in North America and the Caribbean. Colonial boundary disputes and competition for trade among the English, Swedes, and Dutch are among the topics discussed. Most of the outgoing correspondence, copied into separate books for future reference, is no longer extant. Therefore, this series generally represents a one-way correspondence from the directors to Stuyvesant.

The colonial administrative correspondence originally constituted volumes 11-15 of the New York Historical Manuscripts in the New York State Library. Volumes 11 and 12 sustained loss to the edges of each page in the 1911 New York State Capitol fire. Notable among the correspondence is a letter from the directors of the West India Company rebuking Stuyvesant for arresting and banishing John Bowne, a Flushing Quaker who persisted in holding religious meetings in his home. The original records are in the Dutch language.

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Other Finding Aids

Available at Repository

Translated in: *Correspondence, 1647-1653*, trans. and ed. Charles T. Gehring ("New Netherland Documents Series") (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000).

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

Retrieval of records from secure storage is subject to delay. Researchers are encouraged to use digitized versions and/or published translations.

Alternate Formats AvailableAlternate Formats Available

Photostat use copies of selected documents are available at the New York State Archives.

Alternate Formats Available

Items Online

High resolution images of all original documents in this series are available in State Archives Digital Collections.

[Dutch colonial administrative correspondence, 1646-1664](#)

Administrative Information

Custodial History

This item was removed from the series (originally Colonial Manuscripts, Volume 15, p. 12) as part of the Freedom Train exhibit that traveled the state from January 1949 to February 1950 (L. 1948, Ch. 659). During 2000/2001 the item was reintegrated with the rest of the series.

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Access Terms

- New York (Colony)--Politics and government
- Monitoring
- Women--History
- New York (State)--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- Supervising
- New York (State)

- Boundary disputes
- Dutch--New York (State)
- Balance of power
- Commerce
- New Netherland
- Correspondence
- New York (State)--Politics and government
- Dutch Colonial Records
- West-Indische Compagnie (Netherlands)
- New York (State). Department of State
- Stuyvesant, Peter, 1592-1672