Finding Aid for the New Netherland Council Dutch Colonial Administrative Correspondence series.

Finding Aid Publication Date: Mar 9th, 2017

Online Finding Aid Record:
http://iarchives.nysed.gov/xtf/view?docId=ead/findingaids/A1810.xml

Overview of 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:

Title:
New Netherland Council Dutch colonial administrative correspondence

Inclusive Dates:
1646-1664

Quantity:
0.3 cu. ft. (1 volume)

Series Number:
A1810

Items Online
This item is available in our Digital Collections

Arrangement:
This series is arranged chronologically by date of correspondence.

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.

Scope and Contact 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.
Use of Records:

Access Restrictions:
Retrieval of records from secure storage is subject to delay. Researchers are encouraged to use published translations.

Alternate Formats Available:
Charles T. Gehring, trans./ed.,

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

Related Information:

Other Finding Aids:
Translated in:

Access Terms:
Subjects:

- Boundary disputes
- Dutch--New York (State)
- Balance of power
- Commerce
- Dutch Colonial Records
- Colonial Governments (British)

Corporate Names:

- New York State Archives
- West-Indische Compagnie (Netherlands)
- New York (State). Dept. of State

Personal Names:

- Stuyvesant, Peter, 1592-1672

Genres:

• Correspondence

Geographic Names:

• New York (Colony)--Politics and government
• New York (State)--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
• New York (State)
• New Netherland
• New York (State)--Politics and government

Functions:

• Monitoring
• Supervising

**Detailed Description:**
Contact repository for copy with container list information.