

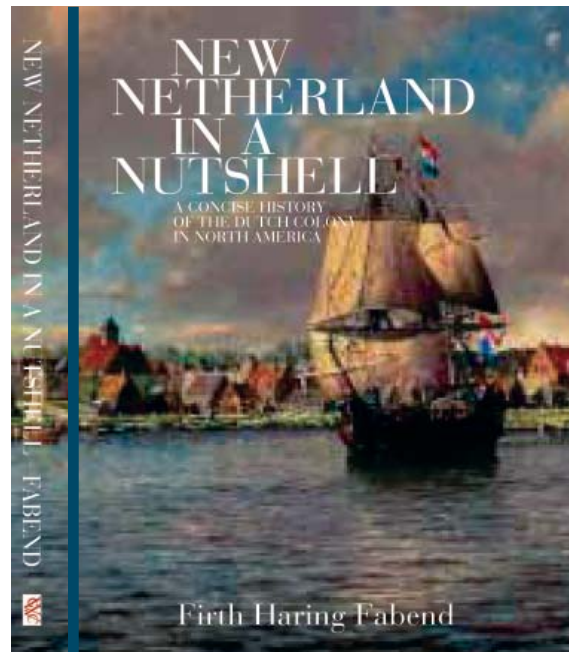
# NEW NETHERLAND IN A NUTSHELL

A CONCISE HISTORY OF  
THE DUTCH COLONY  
IN NORTH AMERICA

“For anyone seeking to answer the question, ‘What was New Netherland?’ this little volume is a handy, richly packed resource. It gives you the background, the actors, the action, and the legacy. In clear prose, it covers a lot of history in a few pages.”

—Russell Shorto, author of  
*The Island at the Center of the World*

Firth Haring Fabend



## **From Charles Gehring, Director, New Netherland Research Center**

The title of this work conjures up an elusive aspiration, which is difficult to approach and seldom achieved: conciseness. I remember as a student in Germany coming across a “short history” of early Hungary in five volumes. Simply said, one of the most challenging tasks to ask of a historian is that she expound on a subject dear to her heart but with brevity. Few succeed. *New Netherland in a Nutshell* is an exception. Brevity, however, was not the only parameter. It also had to be written in a style accessible to young adults, be comprehensive in content, and factually correct. Firth Fabend has been able to put all of the above together without sacrificing one for the other.

The story of New Netherland is told in a highly readable fashion suitable for anyone unfamiliar with this important chapter in U.S. colonial history. From the exploration of Henry Hudson in 1609 to the final transfer of the Dutch colony to the English in 1674, the work introduces key aspects of New Netherland: the multicultural makeup of the population, the privatization of colonization, the ability to survive with meager means against overwhelming odds, and the transfer of distinctive Dutch traits, such as toleration, free trade, and social mobility, all of which persisted long after New Netherland became New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and parts of Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

*New Netherland in a Nutshell* will satisfy the questions: who were the Dutch, why did they come here, and what did they do once they got here? This unique episode in our history will no longer be “one of our best kept secrets” but finally available and accessible to a wide audience.

**From Jippe Hiemstra, President, New Netherland Institute**

For years, the New Netherland Institute has fielded requests from teachers, students, and other interested readers for a concise history of the former Dutch colony in North America. In response to popular interest, the NNI's trustees decided to commission a book to meet this need. The NNI is now pleased to present Firth Fabend's immensely enjoyable and readable *New Netherland in a Nutshell*.

Dr. Fabend's beautifully illustrated book draws on decades of research by historians, archaeologists, and linguists affiliated with the New Netherland Research Center under the direction of Charles Gehring and Janny Venema. By transcribing and translating the bounty of seventeenth-century Dutch colonial documents in the New York State Library and the New York State Archives, Drs. Gehring and Venema and their colleagues have helped revive the study of the important Dutch contribution to the development of modern America.

Generous support to the NNI from the Dutch government and private donors has made the publication of this delightful book possible.

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Release date: October 2012

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