







Middelburg's Abbey is the location of the Roosevelt Study Center

THE RSC IN 2016

uring World War II Dutch-American relations were personified by a warm relationship between President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt and Princess Juliana of the Netherlands. The celebration of 200 years of Dutch-American diplomatic relations and the commemoration of the centennial of the birth of Franklin Roosevelt in 1982 resulted in the establishment of the Roosevelt Study Center which was chartered in 1984 and opened its doors to the public in 1986. This year, 2016, the RSC has been active as a European research, conference and educational center on modern U.S. history and U.S.-European relations for thirty years. Therefore, this issue of *The Roosevelt Herald* includes four pages with pictures of memorable events and visitors in the RSC's 30 years history. As usual, also this year the RSC brimmed over with activities. A young Dutch scholar was presented with the annual Theodore Roosevelt American History Award, we hosted two international conferences, HOTCUS and NASA, and the ninth international Ph.D. seminar with young scholars from prominent U.S. and European universities. The RSC reached out to the general public by offering five public lectures on transatlantic relations and on the U.S. presidential elections. Among the speakers was His Excellency Timothy Broas, U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, who chose the RSC as the venue for his farewell address from the Netherlands. The RSC staff was again active by teaching U.S. history courses at Ghent University, University College Roosevelt, Leiden University and Utrecht University. We cherish the bond with Plymouth University which encourages and supports its undergraduate students of American history to come to Middelburg and use the RSC's research facilities. We are also pleased that our staff member Dario Fazzi published his new book on Eleanor Roosevelt. But 2016 was not only business as usual. As the RSC has increasingly suffered from drastic budget cuts in the last five years, it became clear that it would no longer be possible to continue its activities in the years ahead with the same staff as in previous years. In 2016 the Board of Trustees therefore decided that the RSC had to be reorganized and further downsized in staff. This reorganization, including a stronger affiliation with Leiden University, will be implemented in 2017.

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TRAHA 2016



Martina van Cimmenaede with Theodore Roosevelt impersonator Joe Wiegand and TR Center project manager Sharon Kilzer

Every year the RSC presents the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award (TRAHA) for the best Master thesis written by a graduate student at a Dutch university on an American history topic. Since the establishment of the award in 1987 (called the Lawrence J. Saunders Award from 1987-1994 and from 1995 on to the present the TRAHA) Dutch universities with American History/American Studies programs have nominated over 200 masters theses for the award.

Originally the prize was sponsored by the Theodore Roosevelt Association in New York but in 2015 and 2016 financial support was generously provided by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation in North Dakota and the American Embassy in The Hague. The TRAHA is designed to stimulate the study of United States history and culture and encourages students to use the unique RSC archival resources.

Nine theses were submitted for the 2016 prize and were written by graduate students from the universities of Amsterdam, Leiden, Rotterdam, Utrecht, and Nijmegen. On April 8, 2016, the TRAHA was awarded to Martina van Cimmenaede, a graduate student of the University of Amsterdam, for her thesis "The Sexually Charged Office: An Analysis of Sexual Harassment and Gender Relations in the Workplace between 1940-1975." Roos Maier (University of Amsterdam) won the second prize for her thesis "Remembering a Counterculture: Visuality, Orality, and Imagination in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye, Song of Solomon and Tar Baby.*"

This year's jury members were Dr. Joanne van der Woude (University of Groningen), Dr. George Blaustein (University of Amsterdam) and 2015 TRAHA-winner Caramay Schmelzer. The jury praised Martina van Cimmenaede's work which, according to the jury, was "a wonderfully readable study of sexual harassment, impeccably researched, smart, fun, and activist" with the last chapter described as "a feminist gem."

Martina van Cimmenaede won a trip to North Dakota where she was hosted in September by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation and the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University. In Bismarck she visited the state capitol building and its North Dakota Heritage Center and in Washburn the Falkirk Mine. Other visits included the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Medora, TR National Park, and Dickinson State University with its TR Center. Her hosts not only provided the TRAHA winner with a horseride along beautiful trails but also gave her the unforgettable experience of a hot air balloon-ride over the Badlands and TR National Park. In her report on the trip Martina wrote, "I felt more and more at home in North Dakota. The friendliness of the people, the wide open spaces, this overwhelming feeling of freedom and opportunity, and the enthusiasm of the North Dakotan people I met was truly inspiring."

RSC-Plymouth University Research Program

In 2007 the RSC entered into a cooperative arrangement with Plymouth University in the UK to encourage and support undergraduate students of American history to come to Middelburg and use the Center's research facilities.

This successful relationship, co-sponsored by both institutions, has seen some 50 Plymouth students and several of the university's faculty make use of the link up to now. Plymouth University is unique in the RSC's international network in that, thanks to U.S. history lecturer Dr. Simon Topping, the university uses the RSC's collections as a built-in part of its undergraduate history program. The research topics of the Plymouth visitors have ranged from Civil Rights and the

Vietnam War to Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, the Space Race, and Cold War Intelligence. The results of this venture into undergraduate research have been so impressive that in 2011 a BA dissertation prize was created as a reward for the best output from the RSC-Plymouth Research Program.

Dr. Simon Topping visited the RSC once again in the summer of 2016, first to participate in the HOTCUS conference (see page 7) and then to do research in the RSC library about his current project on Northern Ireland and the United States in the Second World War. In a thank-you note to the RSC he observed, "I have been fortunate to visit the RSC on a number occasions and always have had a thoroughly enjoyable and productive time. Moreover, it is now ten years since the



RSC and Plymouth University created our undergraduate scholarship scheme, which has seen around fifty of our students do research at the Center. Our students have

benefitted enormously from this scheme and I hope that this relationship can continue for the foreseeable future."

INTERVIEW

New Publication on Eleanor Roosevelt



uthored by RSC researcher Dr. Dario Fazzi, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Anti-Nuclear Movement: The Voice of Conscience has been published in 2016 by Palgrave Macmillan in its renowned series The World of the Roosevelts. In six chapters reconstructing Eleanor Roosevelt's rise as a skillful politician and an influential public intellectual, this book also represents the first systematic account of her unremitting involvement in the global campaign for nuclear disarmament from the late 1940s onward. Based on an extensive multi-archival research, this study is meant to assess Mrs. Roosevelt's overall contribution to the global antinuclear campaign of the early Cold War and to elaborate on the ways in which she tried to raise the awareness of the real

hazards connected to nuclear testing. The book shows the extent to which Eleanor Roosevelt strove to educate the general public about the implications of the nuclear arms race and how, by doing so, she became for many a trustworthy anti-nuclear leader and a reliable voice of conscience.

In an interview about the book the author replied to the following questions.

Did your view on Eleanor Roosevelt change during the years of your research and writing of the book? "Before embarking on this investigation I knew Eleanor Roosevelt had played a relevant role in promoting the campaign for nuclear disarmament in the United States. I did not know she had done it so constantly and variedly. What surprised me is that she took advantage of many occasions, i.e. public meetings,



counter, Oak Ridge Cancer Research Hospital, February 18, 1955

newspaper columns, interviews, lectures and so on, to criticize her government's stances on the nuclear arms race."

Did the RSC provide most of the archival materials you needed for your project?

"The RSC holdings have been the centerpiece of this inquiry. The collections at the Center allowed me to explore her private correspondence, the ways in which she managed to bring the fallout debate on TV, and the efforts she made to promote nuclear disarmament at the UN. But the RSC also gave me the possibility to explore sources held by such American repositories as the Swarthmore College Peace Collection and the National Archives and Records Administration; there I found most of the material concerning the relationship between Eleanor Roosevelt and the main anti-nuclear organizations working in the United States."

Do you see Eleanor Roosevelt's use of the media as an important factor in the success of the Anti-Nuclear Movement?

"I think this is one of the most important elements of Eleanor Roosevelt's personal struggle against nuclear arsenals. After FDR died, she kept holding a rather influential position within the American, and international, political landscape. And she mastered the mass media of her era – TV, radio, and press – not just to convey her anti-nuclear messages, but more importantly to translate the terms of what was an extremely technical debate into layman's words."

TO BE PUBLISHED IN 2017

Hans Krabbendam and Derek Rubin, eds., American Responses to the Holocaust: Transatlantic Perspectives (Frankfurt aM: Peter Lang, 2017).

PUBLIC LECTURES

In 2016 the RSC reached out to the general public by offering five public lectures on aspects of transatlantic relations and on the U.S. presidential elections.

On January 27, 2016, Dr. David Woolner, Senior Fellow and Hyde Park Resident Historian of the Roosevelt Institute in New York and former RSC Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair, inaugurated his semester as Roosevelt Fellow at University College Roosevelt with a public lecture on the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms Speech. According to Woolner, the vision that FDR articulated in such simple yet eloquent language had an enormous impact not only on the war, but also on the post-war world. For in calling for a world based on these fundamental human freedoms, FDR established a clear link between fundamental human rights and global security.

On February 10, 2016, His Excellency Timothy Broas, U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, chose the RSC as the venue for his farewell address from the Netherlands which was entitled "Reflections on U.S.-Dutch Relations and Our Shared Responsibility to Lead." In his speech the ambassador commended RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen and his team for the work done over the past 30 years to keep the Roosevelt legacy alive in the Netherlands. He presented himself as an advocate for the Four Freedoms awards and the great people and institutions who have been recognized over the past 30 years. In his view, this has helped make Middelburg the European city for the promotion of FDR's core belief that freedom depends on the supremacy of human rights everywhere.



Ambassador Timothy Broas at the Roosevelt Study Center on February 10, 2016



The RSC auditorium is filled to capacity

Ambassador Broas explained that some of the work he had been doing in the past two years, centered on U.S.-Dutch shared priorities in the context of world affairs. As he said, "This has been an incredible two years for me in the longstanding partnership between our two countries. We have accomplished so much together. I am convinced that if we stay committed to the priorities we share: security, prosperity, stewardship, and values — we can overcome any obstacle together."

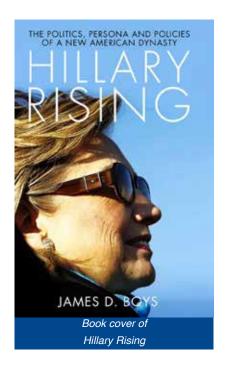
On April 14, 2016, Professor Dean J. Kotlowski, a historian at Salisbury University in Maryland, U.S., and a Fulbright Visiting Professor this spring at the University of Salzburg, Austria, delivered a public lecture about "Franklin D. Roosevelt's Legacy in Film and Television" in which he analyzed a number of films, movie musicals and television programs that depicted FDR.

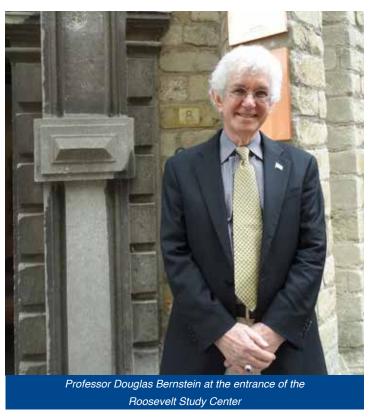


Professor Dean J. Kotlowski lectured on FDR's legacy in film and television



On May 11, 2016, Dr. James D. Boys, Associate Professor of International Political Studies at Richmond American International University in London and biographer of Bill and Hillary Clinton, presented a very lively lecture in the RSC public lecture series on the U.S. presidential elections in a packed RSC auditorium. Based on his new book, *Hillary Rising: The Politics, Persona and Policies of a New American Dynasty* (2016), Boys analyzed the political journey of Hillary Rodham Clinton from her adolescence as a Goldwater Girl to her emergence as the Democratic Party's nominee for the presidency of the United States.





On September 21, 2016, the RSC auditorium was once again filled to capacity when Professor Douglas Bernstein, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, also delivered a public lecture in the RSC series on U.S. presidential elections. The title of his lecture was "Why Trump? The Psychology of the American Presidential Election." In his lecture Professor Bernstein offered psychological explanations for Trump's popularity by describing the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system and why Trump's supporters have become convinced that he will be a good president. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion with the audience most of whom had sincere doubts about Trump's qualifications for the presidency.



University Courses by RSC Staff

In 2016 the RSC staff offered courses at Ghent University, University College Roosevelt, Leiden University and Utrecht University









Ghent University

University College Roosevelt

Leiden University

Utrecht University

Professor Cornelis A. van Minnen, Director of the RSC, taught an American history survey course "From Columbus to Obama" in the spring semester for 90 students from the departments of history, languages, culture studies, art, and philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy at Ghent University, Belgium. The course covered the main geographical, political, social and cultural developments in the U.S. from colonial times to the present and introduced the students to a number of primary sources.

In the spring semester Dr. Hans Krabbendam taught a course "Introduction to Gender Studies" at University College Roosevelt in Middelburg followed by a course on "History of Women and Men in America" in the fall. The courses trained students to

apply the concept of gender to historical research using American developments as the setting. At Utrecht University he taught a course "One Nation Under God(s): Religious Cultures in the United States."

In the fall semester Dr. Dario Fazzi taught a course on "U.S. Government and Politics" for BA students at University College Roosevelt. This course explored both the functioning of the U.S. political system and some of the most compelling issues of the current American political debate. Dr. Fazzi also taught a BA course on "U.S. Pacifism" and an MA course on "U.S. Radicalism" at Leiden University, both of which were meant to provide students with alternative narratives of U.S. twentieth-century history.

The 9th International Ph.D. Seminar

Since 2003 the RSC has organized a series of International Ph.D. Seminars for students of Cambridge University, Heidelberg University, Sorbonne Nouvelle, and Leiden University. In the last few years this Ph.D. Seminar has become so successful that it was developed into an annual activity of the RSC, including also Ph.D. students from such notable universities as the London School of Economics, the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies in Berlin, the European University Institute in Florence, and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.



The International Ph.D. Seminar at the RSC offers the Ph.D. students the possibility to present their work in an informal atmosphere and contributes to fruitful discussions on historical methodologies, primary sources, and various interpretations. Furthermore, it offers the participants the opportunity to develop their network of contacts and to become better acquainted with the RSC staff and RSC holdings.

On May 11-13, 2016, the RSC hosted the 9th International Ph.D. Seminar and nine Ph.D. students presented their work and received feedback from their peers and the RSC staff, including RSC guest scholars David Woolner, James Boys, Antony Best, and Tomasz Basiuk. The Ph.D. students represented Georgetown University (U.S.), the Graduate Institute in Geneva (Switzerland), the London School of Economics, Northumbria University, and Cambridge University (UK), University of Paris-Diderot (France), and the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw (Poland). The dissertation topics covered a wide variety of political and cultural aspects of U.S. 20th and 21st-century history, such as "American Sympathizers with Fascism in the Depression Years," "Tennessee Student Radicalism in the 1950s and 60s," "Unionism and Immigration in the U.S., 1965-2000," "Teenage Female Sexuality in the 1990s," and "Homeless Blogs in the U.S. after 2007."

2016 HOTCUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE



In 2012 HOTCUS – Historians of the Twentieth Century United States – held its annual conference for the first time outside the United Kingdom, at the RSC. This was such a good experience that the organization of professional historians of the U.S. decided to return to the RSC for

its 2016 conference which was held from July 6-8. About 65 scholars participated in this meeting and speakers came from the Ireland, Canada, the United States, Norway, the UK, and the Netherlands and presented their latest research topics.

Professor Margot Canaday from Princeton

University opened the conference with a thought-provoking keynote speech on the position of LGBT workers in the Civil Rights era. Through the lens of labor relations, the battle for equal rights for sexual minorities reveals much about the power structures and gender policies of the United States. The lecture proved to be an eye-opener for understanding American society.

The following two days were filled with lively panel discussions on a wide variety of issues, such as race, religion, gender, the South, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, intellectual ideas, film, consumerism, media and politics. As with every HOTCUS conference, the participants represented a cross-section of the U.S. history academic community, from Ph.D.'s to full professors, allowing for an informal and friendly atmosphere and a productive exchange of ideas throughout the three days. A number of conference participants used the opportunity to stay a few extra days and use the RSC's archival resources for their research. We hope that HOTCUS will return to Middelburg again within a few years.

2016 Netherlands American Studies Association Conference

n September 15 and 16, 2016, the RSC hosted the 2016 Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) annual conference with the theme "American Studies after the Digital Turn." This conference bridged the gap between what seemed two separate shores: the cultural interpretation and the digital computation of phenomena. Thirty scholars from a variety of fields and

countries began a bit hesitantly to question the use of enhanced humanities and digital tools.

Thanks to expert keynote presentations, concerns about the loss of meaning were taken away. Professor John Corrigan (Florida State University) positioned the new methods as additional tools to produce deep maps about complex problems which actually could liberate

American Studies from its polemical edge. Professor Miriam Posner (UCLA) qualified these tools by pointing at dilemma's about designing proper categories. Professor Antal van den Bosch (Radboud University Nijmegen) showcased the interdisciplinarity and gave practical advice how to acquire the necessary skills. A student survey showed that graduate students would like to get acquainted with this new approach but that they receive little instruction.

At the round-table forum concluding the conference the participants agreed that the program had succeeded handsomely in bridging the gap. Far from a departure from traditional methods, the participants showed a reciprocal turn towards each other for enrichment, patterns, and best practices. The result was a confirmation of the fact that the digital world has a positive impact on research, teaching, and publication of American Studies projects that encourages cooperation and exchange.



The NASA conference participants in the Abbey garden

30 Years

RSC 1986-2016

"The establishment of the Roosevelt Study Center is not only a living tribute to three great Americans [President Theodore Roosevelt, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt], but it is also a significant part of the bond, that connects European and American democracies. I wish the Center the greatest success in its important work." These words were written by President Ronald Reagan in a message from the White House upon the occasion of the official opening of the Roosevelt Study Center on September 19, 1986. That day a first-class international symposium was held to celebrate the opening of the RSC featuring, among others, two Pulitzer Prize-winners: historian and FDR scholar Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. and TR biographer Edmund Morris. The next day, on the occasion of the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony in Middelburg's Abbey, Professor Schlesinger observed, "This is the century that witnessed the emergence of the United States as a world power, and the three Roosevelts played crucial roles in the American journey from the wings to the center of the international stage. The Roosevelt Study Center will be the central European repository for the basic documents essential to the public history of the United States in the 20th century."

Since its opening in September 1986, the RSC has developed into a renowned European research and conference center on modern American history and U.S.-European relations offering researchers U.S. archival collections that are unique in Europe, excellent conference facilities and a hospitable meeting place for scholars from both sides of the Atlantic, a vibrant program of public lectures and Ph.D. seminars, and an annual award for excellent MA theses. Furthermore, over the years current and former staff members have offered highly appreciated American history courses at several universities and produced an impressive list of publications. The photos on these pages offer a glimpse of some of the RSC activities and visitors in the past 30 years.



The RSC is named after the three Roosevelts: Franklin Delano Roosevelt



▲ Eleanor Roosevelt



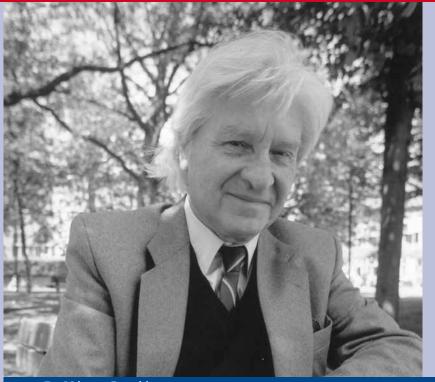
Theodore Roosevelt

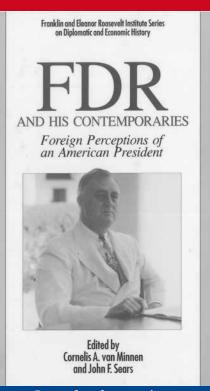


The American Founding Fathers of the RSC at the opening of the Center on September 19, 1986. Left to right: Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., and Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel.



On May 16-18, 1990, the RSC was the location for the international conference "FDR as Seen by his European, Latin American, and Asian Contemporaries." A stellar cast of historians from these world regions presented their views on the relationship between FDR and the leaders – friends and foes – of Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, and Latin American countries. One of the speakers was Dr. Valentin Berezhkov, Stalin's and Molotov's personal interpreter at the conferences of Teheran and Yalta. The conference resulted in the volume *FDR and His Contemporaries: Foreign Perceptions of an American President* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992).





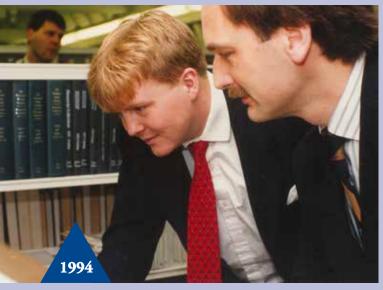
Dr. Valentin Berezhkov

▲ Cover of conference volume

The success of the 1990 FDR conference led to the initiative to make the RSC the venue for a biennial series of international conferences at which historians of the United States can meet regularly with colleagues from both sides of the Atlantic and present their research. Over the years many historians' conferences were held in this series and numerous other conferences, including annual meetings of professional organizations such as the Netherlands American Studies Association, the Transatlantic Studies Association, the Historians of the Twentieth-Century United States, and the European Beat Studies Network. Also the international Ph.D. seminars held at the RSC put Middelburg on the academic map.



In 1992 a new exhibit on the Roosevelts was designed and located in the new exhibition hall of the RSC. In the following years this hall featured a number of temporary photo exhibits on aspects of U.S. history and culture, often linked to conference topics. Since 2006 this hall is used as the RSC library.



On January 25, 1994, Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, currently King of the Netherlands, visited the RSC and, as a former student of history, he showed a great interest in the RSC's archival collections. He is pictured here (left) with RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen.



Among the regular visitors to the RSC conferences were topnotch scholars of the Roosevelt Era Professor William E. Leuchtenburg of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (left) and Professor David K. Adams, Director of the David Bruce Centre for American Studies at Keele University, UK. Here they are pictured in Middelburg's Abbey preceding a conference dinner on June 26, 1997.



On June 8, 2002, Nelson Mandela received the FDR Four Freedoms Medal and visited the RSC which he described as "a famous center of excellence."

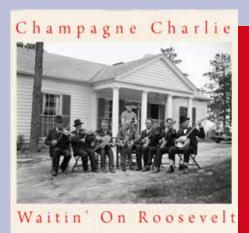


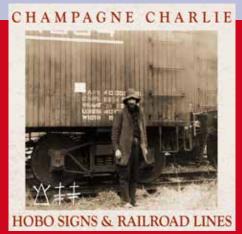
On September 2, 2009, RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen presented the first copies of the monumental 1,200-page volume *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations* to Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands (godchild of Franklin D. Roosevelt) and to Scott Roosevelt, FDR's great grandson.

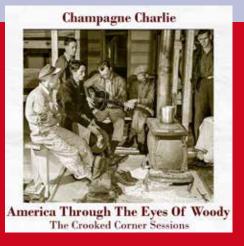




Many students from many places have used the RSC library and seminar room







▲ In the years 2008-2013 the RSC was involved in the production of three CD's by the Zeeland blues and roots band Champagne Charlie. The CD's feature songs from the Roosevelt Era: about FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt, Hobo songs, and Woody Guthrie songs, thus offering a musical panorama of an important part of America's rich cultural history.



▲ The Middelburg Abbey, location of the RSC, is flying the Zeeland, Dutch and U.S. flags



▲ The RSC team in 2015 and 2016

Farewell RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen



As a consequence of the ongoing budget cuts in the last five years, the Board of Trustees of the RSC has decided in 2016 that the only option to continue the activities of the RSC in the coming years is a reorganization of the Center and a further downsizing of its current staff to be implemented in 2017. This means that the RSC will no longer have a director as of January 2017.

After almost 33 years of creating, building and leading the RSC as its founding director since 1984, Professor Cornelis (Kees) van Minnen will leave the RSC. He will remain active as a Professor



of American History at Ghent University in Belgium. A selected number of topnotch historians and American Studies scholars in Europe and the United States, including current and former members of the RSC International Advisory Board, has decided to offer the RSC director a Festschrift with essays about the United States written in his honor and in gratitude for all he has done in the past three decades to make the RSC a vibrant and highly respected research and conference center and a most hospitable place for scholars from both sides of the Atlantic. This liber amicorum will be published in early 2017.

Farewell Dr. Hans Krabbendam

As of January 2017 Dr. Hans Krabbendam will leave the RSC to begin his new job as director of the Catholic Documentation Center at Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Hans began 26 years ago as a Ph.D. student and moved up with the growth of the Center as postdoc, senior researcher,

COLOPHON

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ROOSEVELT STUDY CENTER Abdij 8, P.O. Box 6001 4330 LA Middelburg 31(0)118-631590 rsc@zeeland.nl www.roosevelt.nl



and assistant director. During his tenure he wrote two and edited twenty-two books, published 118 articles, mostly on Dutch-American relations, immigration and religious history. He taught nine courses and organized numerous conferences and lectures, while assisting scores of students at all levels.

