

ARCHIVE JOTTINGS

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NEW NAME: The last **Jottings** alerted you to the fact that changes are afoot. Since then we have changed our name from The Danish Immigrant Archive to The Danish American Archive and Library. This new name more accurately reflects our mission and holdings. The addition of "Library" was made to reflect our extensive book holdings and at a suggestion coming from The Nebraska Historical Society Conference on archives. As we have stressed for some time we are not only an immigrant archive but an archive preserving and promoting the broad contribution that Danes have made and are making on the American scene.

AND STRUCTURE: Not only has our name changed, but further changes are in various stages of development under the local direction of Sandra Wigdahl, Tim Jensen and myself. We are working under a supervising steering committee consisting of Pete Petersen of Canyon, Texas; Joan Jensen of Ankeny, Iowa; and Frederik "Fritz": Hansen of Wichita, Kansas. Fritz replaces Edward Hansen of Edina, Minnesota, who undoubtedly will remain a vital advisor and supporter. Among immediate improvements is an archive web-site. Nathan Kramer is assisting in designing this site, and LeRoy and Sandra Wigdahl have financed the ten-year purchase of the domain names: Danish American Archive dot com and Danish American Archive dot org. By having the two domain names different groups of users are likely to be covered for access. During the volunteer week the assembled volunteers unanimously endorsed these and other developing efforts. The group of almost forty met in formal plenary session.

AND MORE: Providing invaluable assistance to the local committee in formulating actual organization changes has been Richard Vierk, a Dana graduate who is currently Managing Director, Business Succession Planning at First National Bank of Omaha. A meeting with Richard Vierk, Dr. Philipp, President of Dana, and the local committee has been arranged. We anticipate that there will be much more to report in the February **Jottings**.

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA: That might have been the motto of this autumn's volunteer week. Twenty-three volunteers from Maine to California joined eighteen regulars for a productive week of work. Other states represented were Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. Books were inventoried; accumulated copies of **Den Danske Pioneer** were sorted; Neve collection items coded and cataloged, Jorgensen-Sorensen collection items cataloged and indexed; the Family-Individual Collection sorted and expanded; the obituary collection updated and entered on computer; Danish letters and obituaries translated; and further progress made on the Danish Brotherhood project. Individuals coming for the week were Erna Berthelsen, Glen and Margret Christoffersen, Ed and Shirley Hansen, Fritz Hansen, Maynard and Marion Hansen, Roger and Marilyn Hanson, Ralf and Inga Hoifeldt, Joan Jensen, Oscar and Dody Johnson, Elsie Moreau, Paul Neve, LeVern and Marilyn Nielsen, Pete and Beverley Petersen, and Don and Marjorie Wahlgren. On three successive nights the group was hosted for their evening meal by Amy Barlow and Nathan Kramer, Florence and Phil Larsen, and Elizabeth and John Nielsen respectively.

EXCITING CONTACTS: During recent weeks exciting contacts have occurred. A telephone call from London inquired about an envelope in the possession of the inquirer addressed to Waldo B. Nielsen from a Nazi internment camp in Denmark. We could verify that the author whose name appeared on the envelope was Waldo B's son who as a U.S. citizen living in Denmark was interned together with his brother. Waldo B., of course, was a former Dana choir director and professor. The inquirer's wife, who is Danish, is working on a book about Denmark in W.W. II. A further coincidence was that three of this fall's volunteer couples had been house guests in the Burnett Nielsen home in Denmark. A second inquiry was for information about Soren C. Eriksen, former Trinity Seminary professor and one time president of Dana. We could provide this Danish granddaughter with information about Eriksen at Dana-Trinity and subsequently as pastor at Emaus Lutheran in Racine. She, in turn, sent us tremendous scanned photos and her mother's colored baptismal certificate bearing the signatures of Kristian Anker and A. T. Schultz. A third occurred when Phil and Florence Larsen brought Abilone Larsen's niece from Denmark, Margrit Nielsen, to the archive. She had a picture postcard of a house in St. Paul, Nebraska, that might possibly provide a

family link. I sent Joy Larsen Wert a copy of the postcard, and she went to St. Paul where she uncovered information on the house, its builders and ongoing residents—the Hans Hansen family. Such are the contacts and services we render.

EXPANSION: Visitors coming to the Archive invariably comment upon its growth. Now further expansion is necessary. Shelving is being sought for an additional room to house the Borge M. Christensen Collection, much of which will be sealed until twenty-five years after Borge's death. Another room must be equipped to house the music collection consisting of records, tapes, disks, sheet music, scores, hymn books, song books and necessary adjunct equipment such as recorders and players. All of this material must also be digitalized. The visual materials consisting of photographs, snapshots, slides, movies and the like need similar attention.

ARCHIVE CONFERENCE: Sharon and Tim Jensen have recently attended a conference on archives and digitalizing, sponsored by the Nebraska Historical Society.

EXHIBIT: The current exhibit in the showcase outside of the Nielsen Room features the Walker-Johnson Collection. It was the grandchildren of Marion Johnson Walker of Solvang, California, that gave this generous gift of materials as well as \$75,000 toward the \$3 million goal needed to make The Archive viable with a salaried staff, budget and program. The exhibit consists of photographs, letters, autograph books, diaries, account books, auction bills, postcards and valentines of Marion, her brother Anker Johnson and their parents, Henry and Mary Johnson, covering a century.

SIGNIFICANT BOOK GIFTS: During the past months we have received several large gifts of books from Borge M. Christensen, Peter Tveskov, Frederik Jensen, Mette Shayne, Julie Brone-Picke and the estate of Ole Christiansen. Included in Frederik Jensen's gift was the complete Danish set of Kierkegaard's works issued between 1920 and 1931 together with the concordance/index of the set that appeared in 1936. Peter Tveskov's gift was comprised largely of volumes of *Hvem, Hvad, Hvor* from 1934 to 1997. They provide a handy reference. Other single but equally important gifts were received.

FROM JUNK TO TREASURE: It doesn't happen only on "The Antiques Road Show", but rather almost every week when The Archive receives packets of material that the sender does not quite know what to do with. What was probably destined for the dumpster becomes a treasure—not in monetary value like on the TV show, but in terms of historical significance. These letters, memoirs, clippings, sales slips and cancelled checks (to mention but a few of the items received) preserve a tremendous insight into how Danish Americans lived and thought. A few isolated items are interesting; quantities of them offer reliable evidence. Remember The Archive when the urge to clean, dispose, or down-size seizes you. Your junk is the substance of history.

THE NEVE COLLECTION: A new addition to The Archive is the collection of Neve family material from Lloyd and Muriel. Again, a special significance of the collection is that the several thousand letters represent both initial letters and responses covering more than a half-century.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Books make ideal Christmas gifts, and the following are still available from Lur Publications at a special price of \$10 including postage.

Attracted to America, Ivan E. Nielsen, Ed.—Thirty-five vignettes by various Danish immigrants to the United States and Canada and their descendents.

Boats in the Night—Knud Dyby's recollections of the Danish underground and the rescue of the Danish Jews as told to Martha Loeffler.

Danes in America: Kansas and Nebraska—Accounts of 19th century immigrants.

Danish American Lutheranism, 1860-1908.

Elna—An account of an urban immigrant in Connecticut as told by her son, Harold E. Olsen.

Embracing Two Worlds—The experiences of the Muller family and the Kimballton community.

A Frame but No Picture—The story of a boy left in Denmark.

Inside the Fighting First—Papers of Henry Thompson, a Danish immigrant private in the Philippine war, 1898-1899.

Our Last Frontiers—A world cruise diary with vivid observations, by Borge and Lotte Christensen.

Peter S. Petersen's Memoirs—These memoirs depict life in Nebraska and Wyoming in the 1870's and 1880's.

Passages from India—Letters, essays and poems by Norman C. Bansen coming from his WWII experiences in the China-Burma-India Theater.

Pauline and Panno—The lives of a Danish and a Greek immigrant intertwined by Fred Baltz.

Tante Johanne—Letters of a Danish immigrant family in Iowa, 1887-1910.

Under the Cloud—Dagmar Vasby's memoirs of her life as a medical missionary in China and Liberia.

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